IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 60

International Court of Justice

H0060 - 0002

Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal in the matter of The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al, Defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany on 13 February 1946, 1000-1300, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding.

GENERAL ZORYA: Your Honors, yesterday afternoon I dealt with the question of Plan Barbarosa, which provided for the attack on the Red Army and its combat fighting units, and speedy achievement of the means by which Soviet aviation could not bomb German regions.

The final aim, according to Plan Barbarosa, was fortification of the Astrakhan-Archangel Line, the destruction of the Ural industry, the seizure of Leningrad and Kronstadt, and, as a decisive finale, the capture of Moscow.

The political aims which determined the military plans have been formulated by the Hitlerites in the many documents which were read into the record in this courtroom. But these aims were stated particularly clearly and cynically at the meeting in Hitler's headquarters on July 16, 1941. This document was presented by the American prosecution as Exhibit No. L-221, and it is at page 141 in the Document Book.

At this meeting Hitler, Goering, Rosenberg, Keitel, and other fascist conspirators, were deciding, as they thought, the subsequent fortunes of the Soviet Union.

The Crimea, together with the adjoining regions of the Ukraine, the Baltic regions, the Bielostok Forests, and the Kola Peninsula, were to "join" Germany. The Volga colonies were also to become a part of the Reich. The Baku area was envisaged as a German military colony. Bessarabia and Odessa were to be handed over to Roumania, while Finland acquired Eastern Karelia, Leningrad, and the Leningrad District.

As is well known, the Hitlerites alwaysstrove to prevent their real piratical aims from receiving publicity. At the same meeting at General Headquarters, on July 16, 1941, Hitler, for instance, said that it was important not to reveal their aims to the whole world, not to complicate their path by unnecessary declarations, and, in giving reasons for their actions, to start from tactical intentions.

The defendant Rosenberg stated, on the 20th of June, 1941, at a conference regarding the Eastern question -- the record of which was presented by the American Prosecution as Exhibit 1058-PS--that tactics were very important and

H0060 - 0003

that political aims would be determined as the occasion arose, when one slogan or another could be given publicity.

That particular paragraph you will find on page 15 of the Russian text of the document, which corresponds to page 201 in the Document Book.

Taking this circumstance into consideration, Your Honors, it appears of value for our investigation to turn to some statements by the fascist war criminals which refer to the period when they considered it possible to make public some of their political aims.

In 1941-42 the fascist hordes broke through territories of the Soviet Union and approached Moscow. Battles were waged on the banks of the Volga.

The specter of a "Great Germany" ruling the world appeared as a beacon before the eyes of the Hitlerite conspirators. The opportunity arrived about which defendant Rosenberg had spoken when, from the standpoint of the fascist criminals, it was possible that certain political slogans could be made public.

I present to the Tribunal, under number USSR-58, a document from the archives of the defendant Rosenberg's office relating to questions of German policy in the occupied regions of the Caucasus. Once again I ask to refer to this document. I refer to page 203 in the Document Book, and page 9 of the Russian text, the translation of this document.

Rosenberg, on the 27th of July, 1942, solved this Eastern problem in this way, and I quote:

"The Eastern problem consists in bringing the Baltic peoples under the influence of German culture and in preparing widely conceived military frontiers for Germany. The Ukraine problem consists in securing Germany's and Europe's food supply and the Continent's supply of raw materials.

"The problem of the Caucasus is primarily a political problem, and its solution means the expansion of Continental Europe, under German leadership, from the Caucasin Isthmus to the Near East."

On November 27, 1941, the defendant Ribbentrop made a report on the international situation. The text of this report was published in Volume 329-A of the Hamburger Freudenblatt. I present this report as Exhibit No. USSR-347.

Ribbentrop, in this report, said:

"I should like to summarize the consequences of this defeat of Soviet Russia, and of the occupation of the greater part of European Russia in 1941, as follows:

H0060 - 0004

"1. With regard to the war, England's last ally on the continent has thereby ceased to be a significant factor, Germany and Italy, with their allies, thus become unassailable in Europe. Besides this, colossal forces have become free for other purposes.

"2. In the economic field, the Axis powers, together with their friends, which means the whole of Europe, have achieved independence from countries overseas. Europe has once for all been freed from the threat of blockade. The grain and raw materials of Russia in Europe can fully cover the needs of Europe. Its war production will serve Germany's war economy and that of her allies, as a result of which Europe's war potential will increase still more. The organization of this vast area is already in full swing. Thus, two decisive prerequisites for the victory of the Axis and its allies over England have been created."

I shall take the liberty of presenting another document on this same subject. It is Gobbels' speech in Munich, published on 19 October 1942, in the main organ of the Nazi party, the "Voelkischer Beobachter" South German edition.

The text of this speech is presented to the Military Tribunal as Exhibit USSR 250. That is on page 205 in the Document Book.

In his address Goebbels said:

"We have captured the most important grain-producing, coal-mining, and metallurgical regions of the Soviet Union. We today possess what the enemy has lost. And since what the enemy is short of has come to us, it is of double value. In the past we were a people without space, but today this is no longer the case. Today we have only to shape this space which our soldiers have conquered to make it useful to us, and this requires a definite period of time. But if the British contend that we have lost the war because we have lost time, this contention only shows how completely they fail to understand the situation. Time works only against those who have no space and raw materials. If we make use of time to organize the space conquered by us, the time will work not against us, but for us."

Your Honors, that which Ribbentrop, Goebbels and Rosenberg said about exploiting the space captured by the soldiers, took on, at the OKW, the shape of plans for further aggression.

In this respect the following document -- which I now submit to the Tribunal under No. 57 USSR 336 -- appears interesting. I ask you to accept this as evidence. This document is a letter from the German Naval War Staff to the commanding Generals of Groups West, North and South. This document was discovered in German archives by the allied troops.

H0060 - 0005

The letter, which you will find on page 210 in the Document Book, is entitled "Objectives for the further conduct of war upon termination of the campaign in the East." It is numbered 01345-41, and it is dated August 8.

In those days the fascist conspirators considered that victory over the Soviet Union was really only a question of time, and therefore they planned for further aggression.

This letter which I am about to quote begins with the following words:

"The Naval War Staff has just received the draft of the Fuehrer's directives concerning further intentions on termination of the campaign in the East.

"The following propositions give a general outline of these intentions and are intended for the personal information of the Commanding Generals and their Chiefs of Staff."

There follows part 2, Paragraph P, the 8 sub-paragraphs of which detail the plans to be carried out on the termination of the campaign in the East.

I omit the first two-sub-paragraphs which deal with the tasks of the so-called "pacification" of the occupied Eastern territories and with the assignment to other fronts of troops which had become available.

Sub-paragraph 3 details the intentions of the fascist conspirators in North Africa. I quote:

"Sufficient strengthening of armed forces in North Africa to make the capture of Tobruk possible. In order to permit the passage ofnecessary transports, attacks by the German air force on Malta must be resumed.

"Provided the weather conditions do not cause delay and the shuttle service of transports is assured, it can be counted on that the campaign against Tobruk will begin as soon as the middle of September."

In August 1941 the Hitlerites intended, with the aid of Spain, to seize Gibraltar during the same year.

Sub-paragraph 4 of Part 2 of the same letter envisaged that:

"Plan 'Felix', i.e., the seizure of Gibraltar with the active participation of Spain, must executed still in 1941."

The Hitlerites planned the execution of an attack against Syria and Palestine in the direction of Egypt. Sub-paragraph 5 of the above mentioned letter states as follows:

"If, after the obvious termination of the campaign in the East, we succeed in bringing Turkey to our side, an attack on Syria and Palestine in the direction of Egypt is foreseen after a minimum preparation of the necessary forces lasting 85 days, and the preliminary securing of the Caucasian passes and the improvement of transportation conditions in Anatolia, Turkey, with German help."

H0060 - 0006

Two sub-paragraphs later we find, in the same letter, in sub-paragraph 8, the following version of this plan:

"If, even after the defeat of Soviet Russia, Turkey should not side with us, an attack through Anatolia in a southerly direction will be carried out against her will."

In the plans of fascist aggression Egypt played a large part. It is mentioned in sub-paragraphs 6 and 7 of Part 2 of the quoted letter.

Subparagraph 6 mentions:

"An attack on Egypt from Cyrenaica, after the fall of Tobruk. Presumably this attack cannot be carried out before the end of 1941 or the beginning of 1942."

Sub-paragraph 7 stated that:

"If the collapse of Soviet Russia creates the necessary conditions, an advance by a motorized expeditionary force through Trans-Caucasia in the direction of the Persian Gulf, Iran, Syria, Egypt, is envisaged.

"Because of weather conditions, this attack will become possible only at the beginning of 1942."

This document, which I have just presented to the Tribunal, shows the turn of events intended by the fascist conspirators, should the Red Army not have stopped their aggression.

The fascist aggressors hoped to destroy the Soviet Union in a blitzkrieg, to seize her wealth, to subjugate the Soviet people, and by these means to open for themselves the road to world domination.

Now, your Honors, I have come to the end of my presentation. In concluding the presentation of documentary evidence regarding the aggression of the fascist conspirators against the Soviet Union, may I ask the Tribunal's permission to sum up briefly as follows:

1. The criminal intent of attacking the USSR for the purpose of plundering the Soviet Union and exploiting its riches for purposes of further German aggression was conceived by the fascist conspirators long before the actual launching of the attack.

2. The military preparations for the attack on the Soviet Union were conducted by the fascist criminals for at least a year and embraced not only Germany but also the satellite countries, particularly Roumania, Finland, and Hungary.

H0060 - 0007

3. The execution of the criminal designs of the fascist aggression consisting of the extermination of the peaceful population, plunder of the Soviet Union, and the wresting of its territories, was planned long before the attack on the Soviet Union.

Fortunately for all freedom-loving nations in the world, the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republiss, the Soviet people, and its Red Army, completely overthrew all the fiendish plans of the fascist aggressors. The Red Army not only withstood and stopped the fascist aggression, but, together with thearmies of its allies, brought Hitler Germany to complete catastrophe and the fascist war criminals to the dock.

I thus end my presentation.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: May it please the Tribunal, my task today is to present before you materials on the count of Criminal Violation of the Laws and Customs of War in the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

Before commencing the presentation of evidence relative to the overwhelmning guilt of the defendants in regard to the persons who became prisoners of war of the Germany army, I consider it essential to make a few brief remarks.

As early as the end of the last century, the Hague Convention of 1899 established certain rules regulating the rights and responsibilities of the belligerents in regard to prisoners of war. In pursuance of the provisions of the Convention of 1899, a number of states drew up the necessary instructions concerning the treatment of prisoners of war. I would like to cite three or four sentences taken from such instructions:

"The exclusive aim of the military plan is to prevent the further participation of prisoners in the war.

"A state may do everything necessary for the holding of prisoners, but nothing more.

"Prisoners of war may be employed to perform moderate work in conformity with their social position.

"In any case, such work must not be detrimental to health and must not be of a humiliating nature. It must not contribute directly to military operations against the native country of the prisoners.

"Prisoners of war lose their freedom but retain their rights. In other

H0060 - 0008

words, military confinement is not an act of mercy on the part of the captor, but the right of a disarmed person."

It may surprise you to learn that the cited instructions are those issued by the German General Staff, which were published in 1902, three years after the Hague Convention.

The principle of humane treatment of prisoners and wounded servicemen was further developed in the Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention of 1929.

Germany's adherence to these conventions found some reflection in the German Law regarding war-time court-martials in military courts. I have in mind, particularly, the German Law of 17 August 1938, and, in particular, section "e", paragraphs 73 and 75, which contain direct reference to the Convention of 1929. That was at a time when Hitlerite Germany had already begun the execution of her aggressive plans.

As the Tribunal will remember, the 23rd Article of the Hague Convention of 1907 states....

"It is forbidden to kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down his arms and possessing no means of defense, has unconditionally surrendered."

It cannot be said that the brief code of the laws of war, which was, in fact, drawn up at the Hague and Geneva, encompassed the whole range of questions relating to the laws of war. The authors of these documents had, therefore, inserted the following proviso; and I will cite this excerpt:

"Until the opportunity presents itself of issuing a more complete code of the laws of war, the High Contracting Parties -- and I would remind the Tribunal that Germany was one of those contracting parties -- consider it appropriate to affirm that in cases not provided for in the rules established by them, the population and the belligerents remain safeguarded by the principles of international law insofar as these principles ensue from the customs, laws of humanity, and dictates of public conscience in force between civilized nations."

I would like to emphasize that in the Appendix to the Convention on the Laws and Customs of Land War -- Second Peace Conference, 1907, -- Article 4 of Chapter 2 concerning prisoners of warstates as follows, and you will find the quotation on page 4 of the Document Book, where it is

H0060 - 0009

H0060 - 0010

underlined with red pencil:

"Prisoners of war remain in the custody of the enemy state and not of the individuals or troops which had captured them.

"They must be treated humanely.

"All their personal belongings, except arms, horses and military papers, will remain in their possession."

It may, therefore, be considered definitely established that the Governments of a number of states, including Germany, had unconditionally recognized their obligations to insure conditions under which prisoners of war should not suffer from arbitrary actions on the part of members of the armed forces of any state.

The natural conclusion presents itself that in cases of violations of this obligation, the responsibility for any crime against a prisoner of war, and especially for a definite system of crimes against the dignity, person, health and life of prisoners of war, must fall on the Government of the country which had signed the Convention.

In the light of the facts which I shall respectfully submit to you, on the basis of irrefutable documents, Germany's solemn undertakings in regard to prisoners of war will appear to be nothing but cynical mockery of the very conceptions of treaties, laws, culture and humanity.

I present to the Court as our Exhibit No. USSR-51, a Note submitted by V.M. Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, dated 25 November 1941, concerning the outrageous atrocities committed by the German authorities against Soviet prisoners of war; and I quote several extracts from this note, which you will find on page 5 of the document presented to you:

"The Soviet Government is in possession of numerous facts testifying to the systematic

H0060-0011

outrages and atrocities committed by the German authorities against prisoners of war, privates and commanders of the Red Army. Lately these facts have become particularly numerous and have assumed a particularly glaring character, thereby once again revealing the German war machine and the German Government as a gang of bandits who utterly ignore all codes of international law and all laws of human ethics.

"The Soviet Military Command is aware of numerous cases of the subjection of captured Red Army men, the majority of them wounded, to savage torture, ill usage and death at the hands of the German Military Command and German Military Units. Captured Red Army men are tortured with bars of red-hot iron, their eyes are gouged out, their feet, hands, fingers, ears and noses are hacked off, their stomachs ripped open, and they are tied to tanks and torn asunder. Enormities and shameful crimes of this sort are committed by German-fascist officers and men along the whole front, wherever they may be, and wherever men and commanders of the Red Army fall into their hands.

"For example, in the Ukrainian SSR, on the island of Khortitsa, on the Dnieper, after the German troops were forced to retreat by the Red Army, the bodies of captured Red Army men who had been tortured by the Germans were found. The prisoners' hands had been cut off, their eyes gouged out, their stomachs ripped open. In the southwestern direction, in the village of Repki in the Ukraine, after the Germans had retreated from the positions they had occupied, the bodies of Battalion Commander Bobrov, Political Officer Pyatigorski, and two privates were found. Their arms and legs had been nailed to stakes, and on their bodies five-pointed stars had been cut with red-hot knives. The faces of the dead men were cut and burnt. Near these bodies was found the body of a Red Army man whom the Germans had captured the day before. His feet were burnt and his ears were cut off. When our units captured the village of Kholmy, Northwestern Front, the mutilated bodies of Red Army men were found. One of these had been thrown into a bonfire. This was Private Andrei Ossipov of the Razakh SSR.

"At Greigovo Station, Ukrainian S.S.R., German units captured a small group of Red Army men and kept them without food or drink for several days.

H0060 - 0012

A number of the prisoners had their ears slashed off, eyes gouged out and hands cut off, after which they had been run through with bayonets. In July of this year, at Schumilino Station, German units captured a group of severely wounded Red Army men and put them to death on the spot. In the same month, in the vicinity of the town of Borisov, Byelorussian S.S.R., the Hitlerites captured 70 severely wounded Red Army men and poisoned them all with arsenic. In August, near the township of Zabolotye, the Germans captured 17 severely wounded Red Army men on the battlefield. For three days they gave them no food. The 17 men, their wounds still bleeding, were then tied to telegraph posts, as a result of which three of them died. The remaining 14 were saved from certain death by the timely arrival of a Soviet tank unit commanded by Senior Lieutenant Ribin. In the village of Lagutino, in the vicinity of Bryansk, the Germans tied a Red Army man to two tanks and tore him to pieces. At a point west of Bryansk, not far from the Krasni Oktyabr Collective Farm, 11 charred bodies of men and officers of the Red Army captured by the Fascists were found. The arms and back of one of these Red Army men bore traces of torture with a red-hot rod.

"There are a number of cases on record where the German Command has driven captured Red Army men in front of their advancing columns during an attack on pain of shooting. Such cases in particular have been registered in the vicinity of the Vybori State Farm, in the Leningrad Region; in the vicinity of Yelna, in the Smolensk Region; in the Gomel Region of the Byelorussian S.S.R.; in the Poltava Region of the Ukrainian S.S.R., and in a number of other places.

"Wounded and sick Red Army men in hospitals which fall into the hands of the German invaders are also systematically subjected to outrageous indignities, torture, and savage ill usage. On innumerable occasions defenseless sick and wounded Red Army men in hospitals have been bayonetted or shot by the fascist fiends on the spot. Thus, at Malaya Rudnya, in the Smolensk Region, fascist-German units captured a Soviet field hospital and shot the wounded Red Army men, and the male and female hospital attendants. Among the victims were privates Shalamov and Azimov and Lieutenant Dileyev, who were wounded and Varya Boiko, a seventeen-year old nurse, and others.

H0060 - 0013

"There have been numerous cases of the abuse and violation of woman's honour when female hospital nurses and ambulance workers fell into the hands of the Hitlerite invaders."

There are many similar facts in the same Note. Then it continues:

"Marauding is rife among the men and officers of the Hitler army. When the cold winter weather set in, marauding assumed a mass character, the Hitlerite robbers stopping at nothing in their quest of war clothing. They not only strip warm clothes and boots from the dead bodies of Soviet soldiers, but divest wounded men of literally all their warm clothing--felt boots, boots, socks, jerseys, quilted jackets and warm caps--leaving them stark naked. They put on themselves everything even women's warm clothing taken from killed or wounded hospital nurses.

"Red Army men prisoners are starved to death; they are left without food for weeks or issued infinitesimal rations of mouldy bread or rotten potatoes. Depriving the Soviet war prisoners of food, the Hitlerites compel them to rake the garbage cans for remnants of food which the German soldiers have thrown out or, as happened in a number of camps, including the one at Malaya Korma, Byelorussian SSR, they fling the carcasses of horses over the barbed wire fence to the Soviet prisoners of war. In the Vitebsk camp, in Byelorussia, the Red Army prisoners received almost no food for four months. When a group of Red Army prisoners sent to the German Command a written request for food to keep them alive, a German officer inquired as to who wrote the statement. Five Red Army men who affirmed that they had written it, were shot on the spot.

"Similar cases of unbridled tyranny and brutality are to be observed in other camps, Shitkov, Demyan and others.

"The German authorities and the German Government have established a savage regime in the camps for Soviet prisoners of war with the object of exterminating the Soviet prisoners of war en masse. The German High Command and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture have issued a regulation establishing a food ration for Soviet prisoners of war far inferior in quantity and quality to that for prisoners of war of other countries. This ration consists of 6,000 grams of bread, and 400 grams of meat per month, which dooms the Soviet

H0060 - 0014

prisoners of war to a painful death from starvation.

"While enforcing this disgraceful and obviously unlawful regime for Soviet prisoners of war with inhuman cruelty, the German Government is doing its utmost to conceal from the public the regulation it issued on this question. Thus in reply to an inquiry made by the Soviet Government, the Swedish Government stated that the information concerning the aforesaid regulation of the German Government published in the European and American press was correct, but that the text of this regulation had not been published and was therefore not available."

The regulation which had not been available for the Swedish Government in autumn of 1941 has now become available for the International Military Tribunal.

I assume a very important circumstance is that these regulations were distributed in two channels: the High Command and the channel of the Fascist Party. In such a way, the extermination by starvation of the Soviet prisoners of war captured by the Germans had been planned and carried out both by the German High Command and by the Fascist Party.

I present to the Court these documents which were not available some time ago as a heavy load on the scale of the Prosecution. On page 17, your Honors, you will find the document which has been cited by me. It bears the number 225-D:

"High Command of
the land forces

Chief of the armament
and commander of the
reserve forces.

Berlin,

6 August 1941

"Subject: Food ration of the Soviet prisoners of war.

"The Soviet Union did not join the regulation regarding the regime for prisoners of war. According to that we are not obliged to supply Soviet prisoners of war with food either equal in quantity or in quality to the requirement of the regulation. Taking into consideration the general situation, the following rations for the Soviet prisoners of war were established.

"The ration in the camps for the prisoners of war (for those people fulfiling not a very important work) dated 6 July 1941:

H0060 - 0015

	For 28 Days
Bread	6 Kg.
Meat	400 Gr.
Fat	440 Gr.
Sugar	600 Gr.

"For the prisoners doing special work:

	For 28 Days:
Bread	9 Kg.
Meat	600 Gr.
Fat	520 Gr.
Sugar	900 Gr."

A similar regulation headed "Food Ration for the Soviet Prisoners of War" was sent as secret information by the fascist party chancery on 17 December 1941.

I shall quote only one sentence from that party direction, which you will find on page 18 of the Document Book:

"An open discussion of the question regarding the food supply of the prisoners of war orally or in publication is excluded because of the possibility of the hostile propaganda."

H0060-0016

The authors of the document emphasize that there is no danger of any substantial deterioration of the food supply of "our German people." I submit that the hint is sufficiently clear. The document was distributed to the High Command of the Army, to the Commands of Corps Areas, to military authorities in Bohemia and Moravia, to military commissioners in a number of cities.

The Nazi conspirators established particularly low rations for men of the Red Army. On the basis of their own estimates the monthly ration for Soviet prisoners of war was 42% in regard to fats, 66% in regard to sugar and bread and 0% in regard to meat as compared with the amount of food provided for prisoners of war from other armies fighting against Germany.

Moreover there was a special note in the directive itself. You will find the special note on page 19 of the Document Book.

"If the ration for non-Soviet prisoners of war is reduced, the ration for Soviet prisoners of war must be lowered accordingly."

But even these starvation rations, which could not sustain the life of an adult person, more often than not existed only on paper.

I present to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 177, another document.

THE PRESIDENT: Colonel Pokrovsky, I don't think it matters very much, but when you said "0 per cent" in regard to meat, when you were dealing with the percentages, was that correct, because in setting out the amount of food which they were allowed or were supposed to be allowed, there was 400 grams of meat for ordinary men and 600 grams of meat for other men doing special work, and I don't see how 400 grams can be 0 per cent of the ration allowed to other non-Soviet prisoners.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: You are quite right, sir. I have the same figures here, but there is no contradiction here at all. I am reporting to the Tribunal now that there were several directives, and the first one seems to be the best one for the Soviet prisoners of war. That states that 400 grams of meat was the ration. The next directive, which established the percentage of food supply for the Soviet prisoners of war and others, shows 0 per cent.

As far as I understand it, if there was not meat enough for all of

H0060-0017

the prisoners of war, in that case the Soviet prisoners wouldn't receive any meat at all.

THE PRESIDENT: I see. Then you say that the words "on the basis of their own estimates" are referring to some estimates other than the estimate which you give. It doesn't matter about that, but I understand you to say that there are other estimates which show they didn't give them anything.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: You are quite right, sir.

I present to the Tribunal one more document dealing with the same question. That is No. USSR-177. You will find it on page 21 of your Document Book. This is a record of a conference of the Ministry of Supply under the direction of State Secretary Bakke and Ministerial Director Moritz. The document is dated November 24, 1941, 1630 hours. Among those who took part in the conference were representatives of various departments, in particular General Reineke -- probably the Tribunal remembers that it was Reineke who headed that particular phase of the work which dealt with the prisoners of war -- and Ministerial Director Mansfeld. The subject under discussion was the supply of Russian prisoners of war and civilian workers. I quote:

" I. Types of Food

"Attempts to produce special bread for Russians have shown that the most useful mixture is 50% rye bran, 20% residue of sugar beet, 20% cellulose flour and 10% flour made out of straw and leaves.

"Meat which usually is not used for food can never satisfy sufficientl the demand for meat; Russians must, therefore, be supplied with horse meat and with meat which is little suitable for food and which is today issued in double quantities on ration cards.

"The present technique of the production of fat is such that there are no longer any unsuitable fats; the Russians should, therefore, receive good edible fats."

These words of mockery can hardly pass unnoticed. Russian prisoners of war, who had been receiving "meat which usually is not used for food", were now to receive on their starvation rations only "meat which is today issued in double quantities on ration cards", and instead of fats they were to get certain substances which can be used for food only due to "the present tech-

H0060 - 0018

nique of the production of fat." And these products are called "good edible fats."

The second part of the document is entitled "Rations." I quote. The part being cited by me is on pages 21 and 22 in your document book.

"Since there is great discrepancy between the estimates of the experts of the Reich Ministry of Health and those of the Central Medical Department of the Army concerning the necessary calory value of foodstuffs, the final determining of rations will be done in the course of the week by a narrower circle of experts, the Ministry of Supply. The soup made of flour during seven days as rations will be for Russians who do not work in the camp.

"III. The number of Russians whom the Reich Ministry of Supply can supply with food."

I should note here that this sentence means "The number of Russians which the Reich Ministry of Supply can supply with food is being ascertained now."

"State Secretary Bakke was noncommital in answer to persistent questioning by General Reineke and Ministerial Director Mansfeld."

It seems to me useful to point out that there is on the document a note in pencil: "It is requested to clear up the matter of the rations because State Secretary Bakke is, apparently, becoming irrational." The signature is illegible.

It seems to me that this particular inscription really shows the arguments that were going on. You see, it is shown here in the data that there is considerable discrepancy between the estimates of the Reich Ministry of Health and the Central Medical Department, a great discrepancy.

As the Tribunal will remember, the witness Blaha testified in reply to my questions that almost all prisoners of war who died of starvation in the Dachau Camp were men of the Red Army. I shall submit evidence showing that the Dachau Camp was not an exception in that respect.

On 27 April 1942 People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR was forced to submit a new note. I present this note as our exhibit under No. USSR-51. You will find the place I am referring to on page 13 in your document

H0060 - 0019

book where it is marked with red pencil for your convenience.

"The Soviet Government now has at its disposal many hundreds of new documents confirming the nefarious crimes committed against Soviet war prisoners, dealt with in the Note of the Government of the USSR dated 25 November 1941.

"It has been incontrovertibly established that the German Command, desiring to take revenge for the defeats inflicted on its army in the last few months, has everywhere introduced the practice of physical extermination of Soviet war prisoners.

"Along the entire length of the front, from the Arctic to the Black Sea, bodies of slain Soviet war prisoners and tortured war prisoners have been discovered. In almost every case these corpses bear traces of horrible torture, which preceded murder. In dugouts from which Red Army troops have driven the Germans, in fortifications, and also in populated centers, are found bodies of Soviet prisoners who have been murdered after savage torture. Facts like the following, recorded in affidavits signed by eye witnesses, are being uncovered with increasing frequency. On march 2 and 6, 1942, on the Crimean front, in the district of Hill 66,3, village of Jantora, the bodies of 9 Red Army men who had been taken prisoner were found so brutally tortured by the Fascists that only 2 of the corpses could be identified. The nails had been drawn from the fingers of the tortured war prisoners, their eyes had been gouged out, and the right breast of one corpse had been completely cut out; there were traces of torture by fire, numerous knife wounds, and broken jaws.

"In Feodosia scores of bodies of tortured Azerbaijanian Red Army men were found. Among them were Ismail-Zadch Jafarov, whose eyes had been gouged out and ears slashed off by the Hitlerites; Kuli-Zadch Alibekov, whose arms had been dislocated by the Hitlerites, after which he had been bayonetted; Corporal Ali ogly Islom-Mahmed, whose stomach had been ripped open by the Hitlerites; Mustafa ogly Asherov, who had been bound to a post with wire and died of his wounds in this position."

And then, in the same note, is cited:

"In the village of Krasnaperovo, Smolensk region, attacking units of

H0060 - 0020

the Red Army found 29 stripped dead bodies of captive Red Army men and officers, none of whom had a single bullet wound. All the prisoners had been knifed to death. In the same district, in the village of Babevo, the Hitlerites placed 58 captive Red Army men and two * women ambulance-workers in a haystack and then set fire to the hay.

H0060 - 0021

When the people who had been doomed to be burned to death attempted to escape from the flames, the Germans shot them.

"In the village of Kuloshovka, the Germans captured 16 severely wounded men and officers, stripped the prisoners, tore the dressings from their wounds, tormented them with hunger, stabbed them with bayonets, broke their arms, tore open their wounds, and subjected them to other tortures, after which those who were still alive were locked up in a house, which was then set on fire.

"In the village of Strenevo Kalinin region, the Germans locked 50 wounded captive Red Army men in a school building and burnt them to death.

"In the town of Velokelamsk the invaders forbade Red Army men who had been locked on the fifth floor of House No. 316 Proleterskeja Ulitsa to leave the house when a fire broke out. Those who attempted to leave or to jump from the windows were shot. 60 prisoners perished in the flames or were killed by bullets.

"In the village of Papovka, Tula Region, the Germans drove 140 captive Red Army men into a barn and set fire to it. Twenty-five perished in the flames. Six kilometers from Pegostye Station, in the Leningrad Region, the Germans, in the course of their retreat, under pressure of the Red Army troops, used explosive bullets to kill over 150 Soviet war prisoners after frightful beatings and savage torture. On most of the bodies the ears had been slashed off, the eyes gouged out, and the fingers chopped off, while several had had one or both hands hacked off and their tongues torn out. Stars had been cut out on the backs of three Red Army men. Not long before the liberation of the town of Kondrovo, Smolensk region, by units of the Red Army in December 1941, the Germans executed over 200 Red Army prisoners of war whom they had taken through the city, naked and barefoot, to the outskirts, shooting on the spot those who were exhausted and unable to walk any further, as well as those local citizens who gave them bread on their way through the city."

THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn now for ten minutes.

(Whereupon a recess was taken.)

H0060 - 0022

When the people who had been doomed to be burned to death attempted to escape from the flames, the Germans shot them.

"In the village of Kuloshovka, the Germans captured 16 severely wounded men and officers, stripped the prisoners, tore the dressings from their wounds, tormented them with hunger, stabbed them with bayonets, broke their arms, tore open their wounds, and subjected them to other tortures, after which those who were still alive were locked up in a house, which was then set on fire.

"In the village of Strenevo Kalinin region, the Germans locked 50 wounded captive Red Army men in a school building and burnt them to death.

"In the town of Velokelamsk the invaders forbade Red Army men who had been locked on the fifth floor of House No. 316 Proleterskeja Ulitsa to leave the house when a fire broke out. Those who attempted to leave or to jump from the windows were shot. 60 prisoners perished in the flames or were killed by bullets.

"In the village of Papovka, Tula Region, the Germans drove 140 captive Red Army men into a barn and set fire to it. Twenty-five perished in the flames. Six kilometers from Pegostye Station, in the Leningrad Region, the Germans, in the course of their retreat, under pressure of the Red Army troops, used explosive bullets to kill over 150 Soviet war prisoners after frightful beatings and savage torture. On most of the bodies the ears had been slashed off, the eyes gouged out, and the fingers chopped off, while several had had one or both hands hacked off and their tongues torn out. Stars had been cut out on the backs of three Red Army men. Not long before the liberation of the town of Kondrovo, Smolensk region, by units of the Red Army in December 1941, the Germans executed over 200 Red Army prisoners of war whom they had taken through the city, naked and barefoot, to the outskirts, shooting on the spot those who were exhausted and unable to walk any further, as well as those local citizens who gave them bread on their way through the city."

THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn now for ten minutes.

(Whereupon a recess was taken.)

H0060 - 0023

In their desire to exterminate as many Soviet war prisoners as possible, the Nazi conspirators did their best; inventing new and ever newer methods of exterminating people. The note states:

"Of late a number of new cases have been established in which the German Command made use of Soviet war prisoners for clearing mined fields, and for other hazardous work. Thus, in the district of the villages of Bolshaja and Malaja Vloya, for four days the Germans drove scores of prisoners lined up in close ranks back and forth over a mined field. Every day several prisoners were blown to pieces by mines. Provision is made for this method of killing prisoners in the orders of the German command." Order No.109 to the 203rd Infantry Regiment states:

"General Field Marshal Rundstedt, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, has ordered that with a view to sparing German blood, the search for mines and the clearing of mined fields be done, apart from the military operations by Russian prisoners. This refers to German mines as well."

The marauding mentioned in the previous note is regarded not only as something possible, but is proclaimed as obligatory to all the soldiers of the German Army.

The Peoples' Commissar refers to the following documents issued by the German Command, stressing the fact that this looting done in wintertime doomed the Red Army men to death by freezing.

"An order of the Staff of the 88th Regiment of the 34th German Infantry Division headed "Situation With Respect to Uniforms" imposed, "Boots should be removed from Russian war prisoners without hesitation." That this order is not an accidental one is seen from the fact that even before the perfidious attack on the USSR the German Command provided for recourse to this system of supplying its troops.

Among the documents of the 234th Infantry Regiment of the 56th Division, a circular was found numbered 121/4 and dated June 6, 1941, bearing the heading "On the Principles of Supply in the East." This circular states on page 8: "You must not count on being furnished clothing. Therefore it is particularly important to remove serviceable footwear from war prisoners and to make immediate use of all suitable clothing, underwear,

H0060 - 0024

socks, etc."

As the note points out, the Germans, with a view of exterminating Soviet war prisoners, deprived them of food, condemned them to slow starvation, and in some cases used poisoned food. Soviet authorities have in their possession Order No.202 of the staff of the above mentioned 88th [illegible] Regiment, which states:

"The carcasses of horses will serve as food for Russian war prisoners. Such points where the carcasses of horses are dumped are distinguished by signs. They can be found along the highways in Malo-Yaroslavets and in the villages of Romanovo and Byeloussovo."

Order No. 166/41 to the 60th Motorized Infantry Division is quite outspoken in demanding the mass murder of Soviet war prisoners. This order states: "Russian soldiers and junior commanders are extremely brave in battle. Even small isolated units always undertake an attack. In this connection a humane attitude towards the prisoners is not permissible. The destruction of the enemy by fire or by cold weapon must be continued until he is rendered completely harmless....."

The Rules issued by the German Command on the treatment of Soviet war prisoners, under No. 1/3058, contain the following instructions: "At the slightest sign of insubordination energetic and direct action must be taken, and arms must be used ruthlessly. Sticks, canes, and whips must not be used. Leniency, even towards an obedient and hard-working prisoner, only shows weakness and must not be indulged in." (From point 2.) "At work the distance to the prisoner must always be such as to permit of immediate recourse to arms." (From point 3.).

All this proved to be insufficient. The Order of the High Command of the German Army dated 14 January, 1942, and issued in the name of Hitler as Commander-in-Chief, states -- paragraph 2:

"All leniency or humaneness with regard to war prisoners is strictly condemned. A German soldier must always make his prisoner feel his superiority. Every delay in resorting to arms against a war prisoner

H0060 - 0025

harbors danger. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army expects these directions will be fully carried out."

"The Soviet Government continues to receive reliable information on the condition of captive Red Army men in the German-occupied territories of the USSR as well as in the German rear and in the German-occupied European countries. This information testifies to the further deterioration of the regime instituted for captive Red Army men, and that they are particularly badly off in comparison with the war prisoners of other countries. It further testifies to the dying of Soviet war prisoners of starvation and illness, to heinous indignities and bloody cruelty systematically applied to the Red Army men by the Hitlerite authorities who have long since violated the most elementary requirements of international law and human ethics."

The note specially stresses the fact that the inhuman atrocities and cruelty perpetrated by the German-Fascist gangsters against the Soviet war prisoners exceed the atrocities of Tschingiss-Han, Batys, and Mamai.

In spite of that, the note states -- which you will find on page 14 -- "The Soviet Government, true to the principles of humaneness and respect for its international obligations, has no intention, even in the given circumstances, of applying retaliatory repressive measures against German war prisoners, and continues as hitherto to observe the obligations undertaken by the Soviet Union with regard to the regime for war prisoners specified by the Hague Convention of 1907, which was likewise signed but so perfidiously violated in every one of its points by Germany."

Later I shall quote an affidavit, written by a group of German war prisoners. The authors of the document, on one hand, by a series of new facts have added to the number of atrocities committed by the conspirators against the Soviet war prisoners; and on the other hand they have confirmed that the Soviet Command is true to the principles of humaneness in its attitude towards the German war prisoners.

The military victory of the democratic powers opened the innermost secrets of Hitler's archives. Along with a large number of documents that raise the curtain on the criminal plans of the conspirators, we have also

H0060 - 0026

obtained a wide opportunity of interrogating living witnesses. A whole series of questions become finally clear as the witnesses' depositions are being cross-checked with the documentary archives. Much new evidence has also been received by us on the subject of the crimes against the prisoners of war.

Some information with regard to the criminal Hitlerite practice of exterminating the Soviet prisoners of war appeared as of April 27, 1942, in the official communication of Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs in the USSR.

I shall prove here that this crime was part of the general conspiracy, and was planned in advance of the aggressive war against the Soviet Union. The Tribunal will see that the regime for war prisoners was really a sum total of divers methods of their extermination. Let us turn to the testimony of the witnesses.

The former Chief of Staff of the OKH, Otto Halder, questioned on October 31, 1945, testified -- I submit to the Court as our No. 341 --

"Prior to the beginning of the offensive against Russia, the Furhrer called a conference of all those connected with the OKH on the question of the forthcoming offensive against Russia. I do not recall the exact date of the meeting. I do not know whether it took place before or after the invasion of Yugoslavia. At the meeting the Fuehrer stated that the methods used in the war against the Russians will have to be different from those used in the war against the West."

I beg your pardon, I have forgotten to tell you that the place which I quoted from was on page twenty-four.

"Investigating Officer: What else did he say?

"Witness: He said that the struggle between Russia and Germany is a struggle between races. He said that since the Russians were not signatories to the Hague Convention the treatment of their prisoners of war does not have to follow the articles of the Convention."

H0060 - 0027

DR. NELTE (Counsel for defendant Keitel): Lieutenant General Halder is in the prison here at Nurnberg, and he is a very important witness not only to the testimony at hand but in general also. And I believe, according to our principles, which have been formulated by the High Tribunal in connection with Article XXI of the Charter, it might be significant to hear this witness personally rather than use written testimony, and I ask for a decision.

THE PRESIDENT: Colonel Pokrovsky, did you wish to make any answer to Dr. Nelte's request?

COLONEL POKROVSKY: With the permission of the Tribunal, I will submit to him my consideration in this case. The testimony of Halder is of importance to us only in one respect, namely, that he states the fact of the meeting with Hitler before the war; the conference at which the question of treatment of Russian war prisoners was discussed. This fact also finds confirmation in other testimonies which were submitted by us to this Tribunal, and therefore I think that there is no reason and no need for examination of this witness, because this interrogation may cause a further delay as it will refer only to this question, and the German defense may ask questions which are not necessary. I also would consider this proposal, that it would be proper for the German defense to request the Tribunal and explain for what reason it wants to cross-examine Halder; and if this Tribunal will agree then it will render a proper decision.

H0060 - 0028

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal considers that if the interrogation of General Halder is to be used and it has been used, that General Halder must be brought for cross-examination, provided it is true that he is in Nurnberg.

When a witness is called he is liable to cross-examination and the only reason for allowing interrogations to be used is on account of the difficulty of bringing witnesses to Nurnberg. Therefore, if an interrogation is allowed to be used and the witness is in Nurnberg, the witness must be produced for cross-examination, I mean of course, at a time which is convenient to counsel.

Colonel Pokrovsky, if this witness, General Halder, is in Nurnberg, you will have him brought here at a time which is convenient to you during the presentation of your case.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: With the permission of the Court, we will finally find out where Halder is at the present time and if he is in Nurnberg he will be produced as a witness.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: We must note here another Fascist lie. Hitler was intentionally misrepresenting facts.That the Soviet Union pledged to follow the statutes of the Hague Convention is generally known. Even the Criminal Code of the Soviet Union provides for the defense of the rights of the prisoners of-war, in accordance with international law, and those guilty of violations are considered criminally responsible.

The Note of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs in the USSR, Mr. V.M. Molotov, of 27 April 1942, once again mentions the obligations of the Hague Convention which the Soviet Union had pledged to follow. To that Note I have already referred.

Continuing, I shall again quote from Halder's deposition concerning Hitler's speech: (You will find it on page 24)

> "Then he said that considering the level of the Russian troops' political developement (in the original here follows dots or marks of a meaningful and intended pause), in a word he said that the so-called Commissars should not be considered prisoners-of-war."

It is impossible not to remark here that, due to superior political consciousness of the Red Army soldiers, the Hitlerites saw a Commissar or a communist in almost every prisoner of war. Then there is recorded the following question of the investigating officer and the reply to it:

"Investigating Officer: Did the Fuehrer say anything about an order which should be issued on the subject?

H0060 - 0029

"Witness: What I just said was his order. He said that he wanted it carried out even if no written order followed."

After Halder's deposition, in the document book on your table, there is an extract from the deposition of the former Deputy Chief of the Operations Section of the OKW Headquarters, General Warlimont, dated 12 November 1945. He was testifying on oath before Lot. Colonel Hinkel of the American Army. I do not intend to read the whole statement as it largely repeats Halder's deposition.

DR. OTTO NELTE: (Counsel for Defendant Keitel) Mr. President: Regarding General Warlimont, we have the same reasons which I just mentioned regarding Lt. General Halder. General Warlimont is also present in Nurnberg and is at your disposal for examination in the Court.

My request concerns the document which the Soviet Prosecutor had just intended to start reading. I beg that he do not use this document but rather uses the personal testimony of General Warlimont because he is, at present, in Nurnberg.

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal has just ruled that the interrogation of General Halder be used but that if it is used, and it is being used, he must be submitted for cross-examination by the other Counsel for the defendants. What more do you want?

DR. NELTE: I am not speaking about Lt. General Halder but about General Warlimont.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought we had already ruled upon General Warlimont; that he had to be called - - that is only yesterday or the day before.

DR. NELTE: I believe that the Russian Prosecutor does not remember this ruling, otherwise he would not be reading this document but he would be introducing General Warlimont in Court in person.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the ruling of the Tribunal was that the Prosecutor should be entitled to use the interrogation but if he did so, he must submit the witness for cross-examination. Therefore, the Soviet Prosecutor is entitled to read the interrogation and General Warlimont will then be produced for the purpose of cross-examination.

DR. NELTE: Will he have to do that or is it up to him? May he use his own discretion?

H0060 - 0030

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose he mighy use his own discretion and call the witness if he wanted to and not put in the interrogation.

You see, Dr. Nelte, the position of the Tribunal is this. If the Prosecuting Counsel chooses to call the witness and not to use the interrogation then, of course, he calls the witness, examines the witness and the witness is liable to cross-examination by Defense Counsel. If, on the other hand, the Prosecuting Counsel wishes to use the interrogation, which he already has, he can do so but if the witness is available in or near Nurnberg he must still be produced for cross-examination.

The discretion which Counsel for the Prosecution has is as to whether they use an interrogation which they have already got or call the witness. But in either case the witness, if he is here, must be produced for cross-examination.

DR. NELTE: Does that mean both witnesses? Halder and Warlimont are both in Nurnberg and at the disposal of the Court. I am just asking for information as to what period of time these two witnesses will be produced.

We are, naturally, interested to have the cross-examination in connection with the documents as they are produced by the Prosecution.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought that was a matter you might settle with the Prosecuting Counsel as to whether you wished to cross-examine him directly after the interrogation has been presented or after as short delay. If I were to say that he is to be cross-examined immediately after the interrogation has been put in probably Defense Counsel would say the wanted time to consider the interrogation. But you can surely settle that with Colonel Pokrovsky.

DR. NELTE: I will deal with the Russian Prosecution on this matter then. Thank you.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: With the permission of the Tribunal I will commence form the point where I stopped.

I now present to the Tribunal Document Number 266, which is the testimony, under oath, of General Warlimont given to Colonel Hinkel of the American Army.

Warlimont, in many cases, repeats Halder. The important thing is that he confirms in it the two facts:

(1) That it was Hitler who conducted the meeting described by Halder.

H0060 - 0031

(2) That even before the war, Hitler directed that the prisoners-of-war were to be shot; that special units were to be created for the purpose and that the SD was to follow the Army.

H0060 - 0032

Warlimont further testified: (I quote from page 26):

"Hitler then added that he did not expect his officers to understand his orders, the only thing required of them was unconditional obedience to his orders."

We have one more testimonial, that of the Lt.General of the German Army, Kurt von Osterreich, the former Chief of the POW Section of the Danzig Military District. He testified personally before the representatives of the Red Army on 29 December 1945. His testimonial is registered as document No. USSR-151 and can be found in your document book. I shall quote a few excerpts

"I began my work as the Chief of the POW Section at the Headquarters of the Danzig Military District on 1 February 1941.

"Prior to that I was the Commanding Officer of the 207th Infantry Division, located in France. It was towards March 1941 that I was summoned to Berlin to attend a secret meeting at the Headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief.

"This conference was conducted by Lt. General Reinecke, who was Chief of POW Section at the General Staff.

"More than twenty Chiefs of the District POW Sections from various region were present at this conference, as well as several Staff Officers, whose names I can't just now recall.

"General Reinecke told us as a great secret that for the beginning of the Summer 1941 there is planned a tentative invasion of the Soviet territory and that in connection with this the High Command made provisions for the necessar measures, including the creation of camps for the Russian prisoners-of-war expected after the start of operations on the Eastern Front".

I shall omit three paragraphs and shall dwell on several details of greater importance:

"On this occasion he ordered to construct open-air camps surrounded by barbed wire, in cases where there would be no time to construct roofed barrack for the Russian prisoners.

"Further Reinecke gave instructions as to the treatment of the Russian prisoners-of-war, directing us to shoot without any warning those prisoners who might try to escape...."

H0060 - 0033

In my opinion, the next two long paragraphs can be omitted to save time.

I now quote from page 28:

.... "Sometime later I received a directive from the Headquarters of the Supreme Command confirming Reinecke's order to shoot without warning any Russian prisoners attempting to escape. I do not now recollect who signed this directive..."

The witness further testifies how he was called to a conference of the military district chiefs on POW affairs; this conference took place in Berlin, either towards the end of 1941 or the beginning of 1942. The conference was conducted by Major-General von Grebenitz. The question under discussion was what to do with those Russian prisoners-of-war who were unable to work as the result of wounds, illness or exhaustion.

I think it might be useful to quote a few lines on page 29 in your document book.

"... On the proposal of Grebenitz this question was discussed by several officers who were present, including doctors, who stated, that such war prisoners should be concentrated in one place -- in the camp of hospital and killed by poisoning. As a result of this discussion Grebenitz ordered us to murder war prisoners incapable of work, using for this purpose medical personn of the camps".

The witness asserts that when he arrived in Ukraine in the summer 1942 on line of duty, he learned there, as he says: (this is also on page 29)

"A method of murdering Russian war prisoners is already adopted there".

The witness quotes actual figures, actual facts, connected with this crime It is important to note reference to this which is quoted on the fourth page of the Russian text (you will find it on page 29 in your document book, third paragraph from the top.)

"... When I was in the Ukraine I received from Headquarters a top-secret order signed by Himmler, directing that beginning with August 1942 Russian war prisoners must be branded with a special mark. Russian war prisoners were kept in concentration camps under severe conditions, were poorly fed, suffered from moral debasement and died of hunger and illness."

Osterreich names facts which confirm this testimony. The following

H0060 - 0034

episode is revealingly characteristic. I quote the second paragraph of the fifth page: (it is on page 31 in your document book).

"In the beginning of 1942 when an echelon of Russian war prisoners was being moved from Ukraine to the city of Torn, there died approximately 75 people, the corpses of which were not taken away and were left together with the living people. About 100 was prisoners who could not bear such conditions and tried to escape were shot."

Many such and similar cases are known to the witness. He enumerates them, but I do not think it is necessary to cite all of them to the Tribunal

Osterreich speaks also about directives which provide for the shooting of all political workers of the Red Army, Communists and Jews.

Such an arrangement practically opened the way for extermination of any Soviet war prisoners under the pretext that he is suspected of belonging to Communist party or if he resembled a Jew.

In addition to testimonies of Osterreich it is necessary to quote a sentence mentioned, as I believe, by the Commander-in-Chief General Field-marshal von Reichenau in "The conduct army in the East". This quotation is on page 33 in your document book:

"Supplying peaceful population and the war prisoners with food is an unnecessary act of humanness".

I submit to the Military Tribunal this despicable directive of Hitler's Field-marshall and request to accept it as evidence. This document is registered under No. USSR-12.

THE PRESIDENT: Could you tell us what the nature of this order of Field Marshal von Reichenau was? Was it a general order or was it a report?

COLONEL POKROVSKY: The order is signed by General Field Marshal von Reichenau.

THE PRESIDENT: Was it captured or what?

COLONEL POKROVSKY: This document was one of those captured by the Russian Army.

Three of Hitler's important officers have confirmed that already at the beginning of the war the question of extermination of Soviet war prisoners was settled during a special conference. They differ slightly in details,

H0060 - 0035

but this fact is established quite definitely.

That sentence which I quoted from the directive of Field Marshall Reichenau confirms also, that even the supply of food to the soldiers of the Red Army, which were taken prisoners by the Germans, was considered as "unnecessary humanness."

Perhaps it is useful to produce to you the Document No. 884-PS. It bears the signature of Warlimont and a postscript of Jodl. The document was prepared at the Fuehrer's Headquarters 12 May, 1941. It said that "OKH proposed a draft of directive in connection with dealings with responsible political workers and similar persons." This quotation is on page 35 in the book of documents, as well as the following ones which I am going to quote.

The draft foresaw "the removal" of persons of this category. The decision on the question whether the war prisoner falls under the indication which require the decision about "removal" must be taken by the officer.

H0060 - 0036

The document states: "Officer who has the right to impose disciplinary punishment."

Thus, any junior officer received the right of life and death with regard to any Red Army soldier taken as a war prisoner, regardless of his service or rank.

Paragraph 3 of this document states:

"Political Commissars of the army are not recognized as prisoners of war and are to be liquidated, at the latest, in the transient prisoner of war camps. No deportation to the rear areas."

The Defendant Jodl made the following postscript, characteristic of him. You willfind it on page 37 of the document book.

"One must consider the possibility of retaliation against German airmen. Therefore, it is better to represent all these measures as retaliation."

General Osterreich's testimony concerning the existence of the order to brand the Soviet prisoners of war is fully confirmed. I submit it to the Tribunal in evidence under number USSR 14,802/42, testifying to the fact of that order having been given by the chief of the Gendarmeria of the Vice Governor in the region of Syria. The order testifies that the notice of this chief of the Gendarmeria was made public. In the first paragraph of this order we read--the quoted paragraph is on page 38:

"The Soviet prisoners are to be branded with a special permanent mark.

"2. The brand is to take the shape of an acute angle of about 45 degrees, with the long side to be 1 cm. in length, pointing upwards and burnt on the left buttock at a distance of a palm of the hand from the rectum. This brand is made with the aid of a lancet, available in any military unit. The coloring used is chinese ink.

The third paragraph underlines that:

"Branding is not a sanitary precaution."

H0060 - 0037

It is mentioned in paragraph 5 that all Soviet prisoners of war have to undergo branding, including all newly arrived prisoners entering the regions of the Baltic States, the Ukraine, and the provinces of the Governor General, commanded by the German military forces, as well as all other prisoners of war pertaining to the OKH up to November 30, 1942.

The same directive was given to the presidents of the Regional Labor Administration and the Reichsleiter for Labor Administration.

In this document, under number 1191-SS, page 40 of the document book, it is stated that the order of the OKW was brought to the attention of the Presidents of Regional Labor Administration and Reichs Plenipotentiaries for Labor. The order is dated July 10, 1942.

Our documents numbered Exhibits 121,222, and 123, excerpts taken from orders issued by German military authorities, such as regimental and divisional commanders, confirm that the prisoners of war, in order to spare German blood, were forced to clear mine-fields and carry on work which endangered their lives. Order number 16641 of the 60th German Infantry Division states, in explanation of the inhuman treatment meted out to the Soviet warriors:

"The Russian soldiers and the junior commanders are very brave in battle. Even small individual units are always ready to resist attack." This quotation is on page 44 in the book of documents.

THE PRESIDENT: We have had that already, haven't we, or almost an identical one?

COLONEL POKROVSKY: You are right. We quoted this part as a part of the note of the Commissar of Foreign Affairs Molotov, and now I quoted it as a part of an order. For that reason it is impossible to treat their prisoners of war humanely, and it orders inhuman and cruel treatment of the prisoners.

In the document submitted to you as number 3257-PS, there is a sentence directly relating to the subject that has not been so far read in the court. Document 3257-PS is a secret report of the

H0060 - 0038

Armament Inspector in the Ukraine, dated October 2, 1943, and addressed to the Section Chief of OKW. It is in your document book on page 45 and the beginning of 46. It states:

"Living conditions, the food and clothing situation, and the health conditions of the prisoners of war are unsatisfactory. Mortality is very high. It can be expected that by the tens and by the thousands people will perish."

Under document number RD-339, the chief camp and factory physician, having inspected the camp on Negerat Street in a top secret medical report of the 2nd of September, 1944, informed the medical department of the central administration of camps as follows. You will find this on page 47 of your book of documents.

"The prisoners of war camp in Negerat Street is in a terrible condition. The men live in kennels, in old stoves and self-made huts. There is hardly any food. Krupp is responsible for the food supply. Medicine and bandages were so scarce that in many cases medical treatment was impossible. No medical services were possible. These deficiencies are to be imputed to the permanet camp."

In the files of the Defendant Rosenberg was found, among other documents, the one which has been given the number 081-PS. As far as we can understand, it is a letter from Rosenberg to Keitel, dated February 28, 1942, with reference to the question of prisoners of war. A copy found in Rosenberg's files is unsigned, but there is no doubt that such a letter was either sent to Keitel or prepared to be sent to the chief of the armed forces.

The letter states that the fate of the Soviet war prisoners in Germany is a tragedy on an enormous scale.

I will now read into the record the second sentence of the fifth paragraph of the Russian text. You will find it on page 48 of the document book.

"Out of 3,600,000--

H0060 - 0039

THE PRESIDENT: I think the United States read this letter, did they not?

COLONEL POKROVSKY: It is a document partly read, but I ask permission to read it again, because it is of importance to my presentation.

THE PRESIDENT: Colonel Pokrovsky, we have been preventing other Prosecuting Counsel from reading documents which have already been read, and we are directed by the Charter to conduct an expeditious trial, and I don't really see how it can be expeditious if documents are read more than once.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: In this document, which is already known to the Court, is presented a very clear picture as to what happened in a concentration camp. The author of this letter states:

"In most cases the camp commanders prohibited the citizens to give food to the prisoners of war, who were doomed to starvation. More than that, in many cases those prisoners who were not strong enough to march as a result were shot and their corpses were not taken care of."

There is no reason to suspect the author of that letter of deliberate exaggeration, or of having any sympathies for the Soviet people. On the contrary, there is every reason to state that the matters have not been fully thrown light on. This document, addressed by one of the Defendants to another, enables us to imagine the facts that took place in the camps assigned for the Soviet prisoners of war.

I started presenting to you documents of German origin having a definite aim before me. After you were informed of the attitude of the Hitlerites toward the Soviet prisoners, and as soon as you, however, briefly, learned of the way the camps for the Soviet prisoners were kept, as is told by the Hitlerites themselves, it is easier for you to evaluate the probative value of the documents which will be presented in evidence of non-German origin.

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps that would be a convenient time to adjourn.

(A recess was taken until 14.00 hours.)

H0060 - 0040

Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal in the matter of the The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al, Defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany, o n 13 February 1946, 1400-1630, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding.

THE PRESIDENT: Colonel, the Tribunal proposes to adjourn at half-past four this afternoon, as they have some administrative work to do.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: I refer to the report of the Extraordinary State Commission for the Investigation of Atrocities Committed by the German-Fascist Invaders in Smolensk and in the Smolensk Region." A great part of this report is dedicated to the mass execution of the prisoners of war by the Germans. I would like to quote excerpts of this document, presented to you as Exhibit USSR-56, page 6, paragraph fourth from the top. You will find it in your document book on page 58. It says:

"The German-Fascist invaders systematically exterminated the wounded and imprisoned Soviet citizens. Physicians A.N. Smyrnov, A.N. Glasunov, A.M. Demidov, A.S. Pogrebnov and others, who were prisoners in a camp, stated that on the way from Vasma to Smolensk the Hitlerites shot several thousand people.

"In the autumn of 1941 the Germans drove a party of prisoners of war from Vasma to Smolensk. A great number of the men were not able to walk as a result of continuous beating and exhaustion. When the citizens attempted to give a piece of bread to some of the prisoners, the German soldiers pushed them off, beat the Soviet people with canes and butts and shot them on the Bolshaya Sovetskaya street, on the roads Roslavskoye and Kievskoye the Fascist scoundrels opened a disorderly fire at a column of prisoners of war. The prisoners attempted to escape, but the soldiers overtook them and shot at them. In that way nearly 5,000 Soviet people were executed. The corpses were left in the streets for several days."

It is not difficult to observe that this extract fully agrees with Document No. 081-PS, which has been just presented, and the contents which I in my own words have related once again to the Tribunal.

H0060 - 0041

On the same page, six, two lines lower, it says:

"The German military authorities exterminated the prisoners of war. On the way to Smolensk and especially at the camp the prisoners perished by tens and hundreds. In Camp No.128 for prisoners of war the Soviet people were subjected to torture, sick people ordered to do hard work, no medical help rendered. The prisoners in the camp were tortured, made to do work beyond their strength, shot. From starvation, torture, typhus and dysentery epidemics, freezing cold, excessive work and bloody terror, about 150 to 200 men died daily. Over 60,000 citizens and prisoners of war were exterminated here by the German-Fascist invaders. The facts of the extermination of the imprisoned officers and men of the Red Army and of the citizen population were confirmed by the testimony of physicians who had been imprisoned in the camp: A.N. Smyrnov, V.A. Hmyrov, A.S. Pogrebnov, P.N. Erpylov, A.M. Demidov, nurses T.S. Shubina, A.G. Lenkovskaya and several Red Army soldiers and Smolensk citizens.

Thousands of prisoners were shot in the camp under the direction of Sonderfuehrer Eduard Gyss. Corporal Gatlyn brutally avenged himself on prisoners. Being aware of it, they tried not to come before his eyes. So Gatlyn put on a Red Army soldier's clothes, mixed with the crowd, and, having chosen himself a victim, beat him nearly to death. Private Rudolf Radtke, former wrestler in a circus in Germany, prepared himself a lash made out of aluminum wire -- for the purpose of exterminating the prisoners. On Sundays he would come to the camp, drunk, throw himself at the first prisoner, torture him and kill him.

At the municipal power plant in Smolensk the Fascists made sick, exhausted and worn-out Soviet people work. Very often, prisoners worn out by starvation and work beyond their strength, would break down and fall. Then they were immediately shot by Sonderfuehrer Szepalsky, Sonderfuehrer Bram, Hofman Mauser, Sonderfuehrer Wagner.

There was a hospital forprisoners of war in Smolensk. Soviet physicians who worked at that hospital stated:

"Up to July, 1942, the patients had to lie on the floor without having their wounds dressed. Their clothes and bedding were covered not only with

H0060 - 0042

dirt but also pus. The rooms where they were kept were not heated and the floors of the halls were covered with an icy crust."

A report of a medico-judicial examination is appended to the announcement of the Extraordinary State Commission. Academician Burdeno, chief medico-judicial expert of the People's Commissariat in Charge of Public Health, Doctor Prosorovsky, professor of forensic medicine of the Second Moscow Medical Institute, Doctor of Medical Sciences Smolaninow and other specialists from the 1st until the 16th of October, 1943, conducted numerous exhumations and medico-judicial explorations of the corpses in the town of Smolensk and its suburbs. Numerous pit-graves were opened, which contained the corpses of those killed during the German-Fascist invasion. The number of corpses found in those pit-graves varied from 500 to 4,500 in every place where mass executions took place.

I shall quote only those extracts from the investigation which have a direct bearing on my general subject. On page 9 of your document book you have this paragraph, which I now quote -- page 9 of our Exhibit USSR-56, it says:

"The corpses found in the pits were for the most part naked, some were clothed in worn-out underwear, only a few bodies had clothes or military uniforms."

In the second paragraph on the next page of the Document, USSR-56 -- that is page 62 in the document file -- second paragraph, it says:

"Documents certifying identity have been found in sixteen cases only (three passports, one Red Army book and twelve military identification tags)" -- what I mean by that, that is the identification which is worn by every soldier; it was really a medallion, the compartment within which there is placed a document identifying the man's name and rank, and also his home address -- "in several cases only parts of preserved clothing and tattoo could be used to prove the identity of the deceased."

The circumstances confirm that the Germans endeavored to make the identification of their victims impossible as it was demanded in certain directives. The first paragraph on page 11 of Exhibit 56, corresponding to

H0060 - 0043

your page 63 in the document book says:

"The dissection of corpses taken out of graves situated within the confines of the large and small concentration camps, Plant No. 35, the former German hospital for prisoners of war, a saw-mill works, concentration camp near village Pecherskaya and village Rakytna show that in the overwhelming majority of cases, taking into consideration the results of the inquiry, death was caused by starvation and acute infectious illnesses. That death was caused by starvation can be objectively proved -- apart from the complete lack of hypodermic fatty cellular tissue disclosed upon dissection -- by the discovery in a number of cases of grassy masses, pieces of rough leaves and stems of plants in the stomach cavity."

On the same page, but below, in the fourth paragraph, we read:

"A significant number of opened pitgraves, totalling eighty-seven, filled with masses of corpses -- taking into consideration the differences in the time of burial, covering the second half of 1941, the years 1942 and 1943 -- give testimony of a systematic destruction of the Soviet people. In most cases, the men thus exterminated ranged between the ages of twenty and forty years."

Somewhat lower, on the same page:

"Special attention should be given to the fact that the dissected corpses regularly lacked footwear, except in extremely rare cases. Clothing, too, was absent as a rule, or consisted of worn-out underwear or pieces of old coats. A conclusion can naturally be drawn from these facts, that the removal of clothes and footwear having some value had become a constant legalized process and that it preceded the execution of the Soviet citizens."

Further, the report of the Commission deals with the means of exterminating people, including shooting, asphyxiation and so on. All this is not new to us and I see no necessity for reading at this time that part of the report.

In our document, USSR Exhibit 6-S, there were several quotations from the records of the medico-judicial committees and the conclusion of the Medical Expert Committee. We find them on pages 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the document. I shall briefly report on the contents of the protocols and quote a

H0060 - 0044

few words of the conclusion. In the reports it is said that in the town of Ravva-Russkaya, 52 kilometers northeast of Lvov, Hitlerites set up a big camp for prisoners of war. In this concentration camp there were imprisoned and exterminated a great number of Soviet and French prisoners of war. They were shot, they died of infectious diseases, and of starvation. The committee of the medico-judicial experts exhumed a number of bodies from the large graves. Some of the graves were disguised by means of green shrubbery and grass. In the graves there was discovered a substantial number of corpses clothed in military and semi-military uniforms. Some of the corpses had in their clothing identification medallions of members of the Red Army. The age of the prisoners whose bodies were exhumed ranged from twenty to forty years.

I am now quoting from the conclusions of the committee. This portion is found in page 70 of your document book.

"The investigation data bearing on the bodies exhumed from the graves give us a right to conclude that in the aforementioned graves there were buried corpses of the Soviet prisoners of war. The burial was of a mass character. The bodies were placed -- in graves 4 by 7 meters in size -- in layers, one layer upon another, from 350 to 400 bodies to a grave. They were buried in the same clothing which they had on at the time of death. The absence of footwear would indicate that either it was taken off at the time of death or else that the prisoners were kept in confinement bootless. The conditions of imprisonment must have been extremely unsanitary, as signs of vermin were found in all clothing. To judge by the state of the clothes, death must have taken place during the cold season. However, practically no warm clothing is found on any of the bodies. Instead, evidently to escape the cold, the corpses were found clothed in two or three sets of their summer uniforms, towels, bits of sackcloth, etc."

I am omitting a few sentences and want to quote that part of the conclusions which deals with the number of discovered corpses. That is page 70, the same page, in your document book.

H0060 - 0045

"The number of graves, thirty-six, and their size, as well as the number of bodies exhumed, give basis for a conclusion that from ten to twelve thousand corpses of the Soviet prisoners-of-war were buried in this territory. The degree of decomposition points to the fact that the corpses have been underground about three years; in other words, the time of burial must be placed around late autumn or winter of 1941-1942."

A special section of the report of the Extraordinary State Commission for the Determination and Investigation of the Crimes Committed by the German Fascist Invaders in the City and the Region of Orel -- which I submit to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit No. 46 -- describes the mass extermination of the prisoners of war conducted over a long period of time.

The prisoner-of-war camp was set up in the city jail of Orel. After the Hitlerite aggressors had been driven away from the city of Orel, the Extraordinary Commission had an opportunity of procuring the testimony of doctors who had been in this camp and who by chance survived. There are included in this report personal observations of the member of the Extraordinary State Committee, Academician Burdenko, who personally examined persons liberated by the Red Army from this camp and from the so-called prison "hospital". The general conclusion which can be reached is that in the city camp of Orel, as well as in the other camps, Hitlerites carried out physical extermination of the Soviet people with the methodical routine so characteristic of the Germans.

The prisoners received 200 grams of bread and a litre of soup, made of rotten soya beans and stale flour. Bread was baked with an admixture of sawdust. The camp administration, including the doctors, treated prisoners in the most atrocious manner.

I want to quote a few excerpts from the report of the Commission. I shall begin with the fifth paragraph on page 2:

"The camp commander, Major Hoffmann, beat prisoners and forced the hunger-exhausted persons to unload shells and do hard manual labor in the stone quarries. The boots and leather shoes were taken away from the

H0060 - 0046

prisoners and wooden shoes given them instead. In the winter, the wooden shoes became slippery and the prisoners of war often slipped and crippled themselves in walking, especially when going up or down the stairs.

Dr. H.I. Tsvetkov, who had been an inmate of the prisoner-of-war camp, testified as follows, and you will find it quoted on page 72. It is the second half of the page and the beginning of page 73.

"I can describe the attitude of the German Command toward the prisoners of war during my stay in the Orel Camp as one of deliberate extermination of manpower. The food ration which at the most equalled 700 calories, was all they had under conditions of hard work, usually beyond the prisoner's strength, and led to complete exhaustion of the organism (cachexia) and to death.

"In spite of our protests and struggle against this mass murder of Soviet people, the German camp doctors -- Kuper and Beckel -- asserted that the food was completely satisfactory. Moreover, they denied that the edemata or the hunger edema shown by many of the prisoners was caused by starvation, and ascribed the condition entirely to heart or kidney trouble. The mortality in camp assumed mass proportions. Of the total number of murdered men, three thousand died of starvation and of complications produced by malnutrition.

"The prisoners lived under conditions so horrible that they almost defy description. Fuel and water were completely lacking. Everything was vermin-infested. The prison wards were unbelievably overcrowded, firty to eighty people being crammed into a ward 15 to 20 square meters in size. Prisoners would die five or six in each ward and the living would sleep on the dead."

It is further said that a particularly horrible regime existed for those who were placed in the category of the "recalcitrants". They were put into a special building, called the "death block." The inmates of this block were shot on schedule, five to six persons being taken every Tuesday and Friday. During the shootings, among others, the German physician Kuper was also present.

Academician Burdenko ascertained that in the so-called "hospital",

H0060 - 0047

people were exterminated in the same manner as in the rest of the camp. In the next-to-the-last paragraph, on the third page, we read:

"The scenes which I had to witness defy imagination. My joy at the sight of the liberated people was marred by the fact that their faces bore expressions of stupor. This made me think, 'What is the matter here?' Evidently the sufferings they had undergone erased the distinction between life and death from their minds.

"I observed these people for three days, bandaged their wounds while evacuating them, but the psychological stupor remained. Something similar could also be seen on the faces of the doctors during the first days.

"People perished in the camp from disease, starvation, beatings; in the so-called 'hospital' they died of wound infections, of sepsis and of hunger."

On the 2nd of May, 1945, there was captured in Berlin a member of the SS, Paul-Ludwig Gottlieb Waldmann. He was born on the 17th of October, 1914, in Berlin in a shopkeeper's family, the son of Ludwig Waldmann. As far as he knew, up to the time of his capture, his mother was living in the city of Braunschweig, Donnerburweg 60.

He gave his personal testimony regarding the facts of mass extermination of the Soviet prisoners of war which were known to him. He witnesses these exterminations, working as a driver in different camps and he himself participated in them. His testimony is on page 9 of USSR Exhibit No. 52, entitled, "Camp Auschwitz." It provides particularly detailed information on the executions in Camp Sachsenhausen.

Toward the end of summer, 1941, the Sondercommando of the Security Police located in this camp for a month daily exterminated Russian prisoners of war. He testifies that:

"The Russian prisoners of war had to walk about one kilometer from the station to the camp. In the camp they stayed one night without food. The next night they were led to be executed. The prisoners were constantly driven from the inner camp on three trucks, one of which was driven by me.

H0060 - 0048

The inner camp was approximately one and three-quarters kilometers from the execution grounds. The execution itself took place in the barracks which had recently been constructed for the purpose.

"One chamber was intended for undressing, another for waiting. In the chamber there was a radio which played quite loud. It was done purposely so that the prisoners should not guess that death awaited them. From the second chamber they went one by one through a passage into a small fenced-in building where on the floor there was an iron grill. Under the latter there was a drain. As soon as the prisoner-of-war was killed, the corpse was carried out by two German prisoners while the grill was cleaned of blood.

"In this small room there was a slot in the wall, approximately 50 centimeters in length. The prisoner of war stood with the back of his head against the slot and a sniper who was behind the slot, shot at him. This arrangement did not prove to be satisfactory as the sniper often missed his shot. After eight days a new arrangement was made. As before, the prisoner was placed against the wall; then on his head there was slowly lowered an iron bar. The prisoner was under the impression that his height was being measured. In the iron bar there was a spring driver pin which suddenly came out and hit the prisoner on the head. He fell dead. The iron bar was controlled by means of an iron foot lever which was in the corner of the room. The personnel who worked in the room belonged to the above-mentioned Sonderkommando.

"At the request of the officials of the execution squad, I was also obliged to work this apparatus. I shall speak about this later. The bodies of prisoners of war killed in this manner were burnt in four travelling crematoriums which were moved about on trailers. I had to ride constantly from the inner camp to the execution court. I usually had to make ten trips a night with ten minutes' interval between them. It was during these intervals that I witnessed the executions."

It is a long way from these individual murders to the death factories of Tremblinck, Dachau, and Oswienzim, but it leads in the same direction

H0060 – 0049

and to the same results.

The methods and the scale of killings varied. Hitlerites endeavored to find new methods of rapid extermination of great masses of human beings. Much time was spent in solving this problem. They began to carry it out even before their attack on the Soviet Union, by the invention of different devices and instruments for murder. The victims of Hitlerite executions were peaceful citizens, as well as prisoners-of-war.

I present to the Tribunal the report of the Extraordinary Commission on the German Atrocities in the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic. This bears No. USSR-7. Here, as well as in other places, mass extermination of Soviet prisoners of war was a part of the monstrous plan of the Fascist aggressors. I shall quote a few sentences from page 6 of this document. In your copy it is marked in red pencil -- on page 86.

"In Kaunas, in Fort No. 6, there was a camp, No. 336, for the Soviet war prisoners. The prisoners in the camp were subjected to insults and torture, in accordance with the inhuman 'directions to the guards and soldiers convoying labor units.' The war prisoners of Fort No. 6 were doomed to malnutrition and starvation.

"The witness Medishevskaja made the following deposition to the commission: 'The war prisoners were terribly starved; I saw them pick up grass and eat it.'"

I omit a few sentences and read on:

"At the entrance of Camp No. 336, there still exists a board with the following inscription in German, Lithuanian and Russian: 'All those who come in contact with war prisoners, especially those who give them food, cigarettes or civilian clothes, will be shot!'

"In the camp at Fort No. 6 there was a 'hospital' for war prisoners, which practically served as a transfer point from the camp to the grave. The war prisoners thrown into this 'hospital' were doomed to die.

"According to the German statistics of sickness among the prisoners of war in Fort #6, the number of the deceased Soviet prisoners reached

H0060 - 0050

13,936 for a period of eleven months only, from September 1941 to July 1942".

I shall omit the reading of the whole list of graves, and I just quote the line which gives the general summary:

"Altogether, 35,000 prisoners of war were, according to the camp documents, buried here".

Besides the camp #336, in the same town of Kaunas, there existed another camp, which had no number, on the south-western border of the airfield. The report concerning this camp states:

"The same methods, as in Fort #6, that is starvation, whip and clubs, ruled in this camp. The exhausted war prisoners who were unable to walk or move were daily carried outside the camp, placed alive in the pits prepared beforehand and covered with earth."

The last three lines of the left column on page 6 state as follows: USSR document Number 7, on your page 86:

"On the basis of the receipts, documents and testimonials of the witnesses the Commission established that here, close to the airfield, 10,000 Soviet prisoners were tortured to death and were buried".

The report mentions one more camp, 133, near the town of Alitus and several other camps, which were established in July 1941 and existed up to April 1943. The prisoners in these camps froze to death. When the prisoners were unloaded from the railway cars, those of them who were unable to walk were shot. The prisoners were tortured until they lost consciousness; they were hanged on chains by their feet, then taken down, brought back to life by means of cold water, and then hanged again. Giving the total of all the exterminated, the Commission reports: (Several of the lines I am going to quote now are still on Page 86 in your document book, end of the page) :

"It has been established that no less than 165,000 Soviet war prisoners were executed by Germans in the above-mentioned camps of the Lithuanian SSR."

H0060 – 0051

The extermination of Soviet prisoners-of-war was carried out literally in all the camps. Thousands of Soviet soldiers perished in the extermination camp of Majdanek. The second paragraph of page 5 of the joint Polish & Soviet communique of the Extraordinary Commission, which is presented to you as document # USSR-29, -- that corresponds to your page 92 of the document book -

"the sanguinary history of this camp begins with the mass shooting of the Soviet prisoners of war, carried out by the SS in November and December 1941. Out of a group of 2,000 Soviet war prisoners 80 men only remained alive; all the rest were shot and a few were tortured to death."

In the period between January and April 1942, new transports of Soviet war prisoners were brought into the camp and shot. Nedzeliak Jan, who worked in the camp as a truck driver, testified:

"About 5,000 Russian war prisoners were exterminated by the Germans during the winter of 1942; they were taken from their barracks in trucks and driven to the pits of a former stone quarry where they were shot."

The prisoners of war of the former Polish Army, captured as early as 1939, and imprisoned in different German camps, and later in 1940 they were concentrated in the Lublin camp on the Lipovaya street, and soon after were transferred in parties to the extermination camp of Majdanek, where they suf ered the same fate: systematic torture, murder, mass shooting, hanging, etc.....

The witness Reznik testified as follows:

"In January 1941, I was with a part of over 4,000 Jew war prisoners who were put into railway cars and sent to the East..... We were brought to Lublin, where we were unloaded and given over to the SS. Towards September or October 1942, it was decided that only those people who were skilled workers and were thus needed in town, were to be left in the camp on Lipovaya street #7, while all the rest, and I among them, were transferred to the camp of Majdanek. All of us already knew, far too well, that to be sent to Majdanek meant death. Out of the party of more than 4,000 war prisoners, only a few individuals, wh managed to

H0060 - 0052

escape whilst engaged in the work outside the camp, remained alive.

"In the summer of 1943, 300 Soviet officers, including 2 colonels, 4 majors, and the rest in the ranks of captains and senior lieutenants, were brought to the camp of Majdanek. All of them were shot there."

Huge camps for the extermination of the Soviet war prisoners had been organized by German fascists on the territory of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic.. The report of the Extraordinary State Commission for the investigation of the crimes committed by the German invaders on the territory of this republic (we present to the Tribunal this report as document # USSR-41) contains the following information on the extermination of 327,000 Soviet prisoners-of-war.

I quote from page 7, from the right column of the above mentioned report. You will find this in page 97 in the book of documents:

"The German organized a camp in Riga for Soviet war prisoners in the former barracks on the Pernovski and Rudolf Streets, calling it 'Stalag 350', which existed from July 1941 to October 1944. The Soviet war prisoners lived there under inhuman conditions. The building, where they were lodged, had no windows and no heating. In spite of hard labor from 12 to 14 hours daily, their rations consisted only of 150-200 grams of bread and the so-called "gross" soup, made with rotten potatoes, leaves of trees and other garbage."

In my opinion, it is necessary to emphasize the monotony of the rations given the prisoners-of-war. Testimony given by the witnesses coincides fully with the "official directive" on the quantities of food allotted to the prisoners-of-war, which I have already submitted to the Tribunal.

A former prisoner of war, P. F. Yakovanko, who was imprisoned in "Stalag 350", testified. This is page 97 in your document book.

"We were given 180 gramms of bread, half of it sawdust and straw, one litre of saltless soup made of rotten, unpeeled potatoes. We slept on the bare ground and were eaten by lice. As a result of starvation, cold, whippings, typhus and shootings, between December 1941 to May 1942, 30,000 prisoners of war perished in the camp. The Germans daily shot prisoners of war who, owing to weakness or illness, were unable to go to work; they mocked them and beat them without any reason at all."

H0060 -0053

G. B. Novitzkiss who had worked as a senior nurse in the Hospital for Soviet Prisoners of war in #1 Gymnastitcheskays street, testified that she had repeatedly seen patients eat grass and tree-leaves in order to quell the pangs of hunger.

"In branches of Stalag 350, on the territory of former brewery and in the Panzer barracks more than 19,000 persons perished, between September 1941 and April 1942 alone of starvation, tortures and epidemics. The Germans also shot wounded prisoners of war. Soviet prisoners of war perished also en route to the camp, because the Germans left them without food or water."

A female witness, A.V. Taukuliss testified:

"In the autumn of 1941 there arrived at the station of Salaspils a convoy of Soviet prisoners of war consisting of 50-60 cars. When the cars were opened, the stench of corpses could be smelt a long distance away. Half of the men were dead; many were dying. Men who could climb out of the wagons dashed towards water, but the guards opened fire and shot several dozen of them."

I shall not enumerate other facts which took place in "Stalag 350", but will only make public the concluding sentence, which refers to this camp. I am afraid that in this sentence there is a misprint in your document book. If I am not mistaken, in your document book it says 120,000 Soviet prisoners. That is not a correct figure. In the original document another figure is mentioned.

"In Stalag 350 and in its branches the Germans tortured to death and shot over 130,000 Soviet prisoners of war."

On page 97 in your document book you can find the following part of this report:

"In Daugavpilis (Dvisnk) there was a camp for Soviet Prisoners of War - 'Stalag 340', known amongst the camp inmates and the town's inhabitants as a 'death-camp', where, in three years, more than 124 thousand Soviet prisoners of war perished from starvation, tortures and shootings.

"The vengeance wreaked on the prisoners of war by the German executioners usually began on the way to the camp. In the summer, prisoners of war were usually transported in tightly closed wagons, in winter - in

H0060 - 0054

open wagons and on platform trucks. Men perished in masses from thirst and hunger. In the summer they were suffocated in the heat, in the winter - they froze."

Witness T. K. Ussenko stated:

"In November 1941, I was on duty at the station of Most as a signalman and I saw a transport moved in to the 217 Kilometre sidings, consisting of more than 30 cars. In the cars not a single living person was discovered. No fewer than 1,500 were dead were unloaded from this transport. They all were nothing but underclothes. The corpses remained lying near the railway track for about a week."

The hospital attached to the camp was also given the task of exterminating of prisoners of war. A worker at the hospital, Witness V.A. Efimova, testified before the Commission:

"It seldom happened that any one left the hospital alive. Attached to the hospital there were five groups of prisoner of war - grave diggers who carried the dead in a handcart to a cemetary. It happened frequently that a still living man was thrown into the cart, and on top another 6-7 bodies of dead or shot people were loaded. The living were buried together with the dead; the sick, tossing in delirium, were killed at the hospital with sticks."

When an epidemic broke out, at the camp, the Hitlerites drove to the airfield everybody from the barracks where typhus-stricken men were discovered, and shot them. In this manner, about 45,000 Soviet prisoners of war were exterminated.

Terrible facts are quoted in the documents of the Extraordinary State Commission, which investigated the crimes of the German-fascists usurpers in the vicinity of the cities of Sevastopol, Kerch at the health-resort of Teberda. I shall quote from our Exhibit No. 63 /5/. Attached to Sevastopol prison, the German Fascist Command had organized a hospital for the sick and wounded prisoners of war. The extermination there was en masse. I shall quote a few sentences, which you will find in your document book on Page 99:

"At the time the hospital was organized, the sick and wounded were, for 5 or 6 days, not given any water or bread by the Germans, who said

H0060 - 0055

cynically: 'This is the punishment for the particularly obstinate defense of Sevastopol by the Russians'."

The wounded brought from the battlefield were given no medical aid. Officers and men alike were thrown on the concrete floors, where they lay bleeding for 7 or 8 days.

During the defense of Sevastopol there was, at Inkermann, in the cellars of the champagne factory a military hospital and a medico-sanitary unit No. 47. After the retreat of the Red Army, in cellars Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 13 there remained a large number of wounded soldiers and officers who had not had time to evacuate ....The German beasts, having captured the factory, became drunk and then fired the cellars.

I omit a number of facts, of which, strictly speaking, the majority should have been specially reported to the Tribunal. I pass on to the description of the last crime which was mentioned, in the statement of the Commission. I pay special attention to it because it describes the fact of a bestial extermination of a very large number of wounded Red Army soldiers.

H0060 - 0056

You will find this quotation also on Page 99 in your Document Book:

"On the 4th December 1943 there arrived at the station of Sevastopol from the city of Kertch three transports of wounded prisoners of war belonging to the Kertch landing forces. Having loaded them on a barge of 2,500 tons' displacement, which was moored in the Southern bay near the landing-stage, the Germans set fire to it. The heartrending screams of the prisoners of war filled the air. Women who were not far from the barge could render no help to the wounded, as they were driven away from the place of the fire by gendarmes. Not more than 15 men were saved. Thousands perished in the fire.

"On the following day, the same barge was loaded with 2,000 men from amongst the wounded brought from Kertch. The barge sailed from Sebastopol in an unknown direction and the wounded who were in it were drowned in the sea".

I reiterate that I leave unannounced a large number of facts established by the Commission.

The data referring to bestialities committed by the German-fascist usurpers in respect of Soviet prisoners of war in the Stalin region differs little in character from the material already published. In our number USSR-2a, among a series of reports, we find two referring to the extermination of Soviet prisoners of war. The first one was drawn up in the town of Stalino by a special commission, headed by the chairman of the Stalino works district Council of workers' deputies. I will read that part of the protocol which contains information of interest to us.

The official report begins in the left-hand column of page three and the extracts which I am reading are printed on page 105 of your Document Book.

"The circumstances of the case: In the district of the Stalino-works of the town of Stalino, in the "Lenin Club" the German-Fascist aggressors organized a camp for Soviet prisoners of war; at times there were in this camp up to 20,000 men; the camp's Commandant, a German officer named Gavbel, established an intolerable regime for Soviet prisoners of war. Examined, as witnesses, former prisoners of war who had been in that camp and escaped, Ivan Vasilyetch Plakhoff and Konstantin Semyonovitch Shatzky, testified that prisoners of war were starved; a loaf of bread weighing

H0060 - 0057

1200 grammes and made of low-quality, burnt flour was issued to 8 men, and once a day one litre of hot liqu id was given consisting of a small quantity of burnt bran, sometimes mixed with wood sawdust. The building in which the prisoners of war lived had no glass in the windows; in summer and winter 5 kilogrammes of coal were issued for heating purposes even in the coldest of weather; of course, this could not heat the big premises, where up to a thousand men lived in a draught. Mass cases of frostbite were observed. There were no baths. People in general could not have a wish for six months and suffered from vermin. In the hot summer months men suffered from the heat; for 3 to 5 days on end they received no drinking water."

The regime in the camp organized in the Stalino Works region was, as is evident from the quoted extract, exactly the same as the regime in other German prisoner of war camps. This is undoubted proof of the existence of general directive orders.

The following excerpt shows that, in addition to the general directives, camp commanders had opportunities to commit atrocities each in their own way, while remaining entirely unpunished.

You will find on Page 105 the ~~Paragraph~~ which is read by me i n the record:

"Prisoners of war were beaten with sticks and rifle butts under any trifling pretext, and at any suspected attempt to escape there was fixed a punishment of 720 strokes with the lash, which was administered over 8 days - 30 at a time in the morning, noon and evening, and at the same time the culprits were deprived of their bread ration, while the liquid food ration was reduced by half."

As a result of such a regime mortality in the camp was enormous. In winter, deaths amounted to 200 per day. Epidemics broke o ut in the camp. Numerous cases were observed of swelling as a result of starvation and of death from inanition. The guards derived pleasure from degrading the Prisoners of War and from setting them one against the other.

Thus Statzky testified that he was subjected to beatings by German policemen and received 120 strokes with the lash and 15 with sticks for not having obeyed the order to beat his fellow prisoner of war. The beatings were conducted by German Officers.

H0060 - C058

Provisions brought by civilians for prisoners of war did not reach them. The Commission came to the conclusion that in the grounds of the camp and of the central hospital no fewer than 25 thousand Soviet prisoners of war were buried. This conclusion is based on measurements and numbers of graves and on the testimony of witnesses.

Mass killings and murders of Prisoners of War were also organized by the German-Fascist invaders in another town in the Don basin, Artyomovsk. A special Commission, consisting of the Military Prosecutor of the town of Artyomovsk, of the priest of the Pokrovsky Church - Ziumin, of representatives of the intelligentsia, public organizations and army units drew up an official report on the mass murders of Soviet prisoners of war organized by the Fascist invaders. This official report is to be found on page 4 of document U.S.S.R. - 2a, and it is also on Page 105 of your Document Book - I quote:

"In November 1941, soon after the occupation by the German-Fascist invaders of the town of Artyomovsk, on the territory of the military town beyond the Northern Station, there was established a prisoner-of-war camp, holding 1,000 captured Red Army prisoners of war."

H0060 - 0059

I omit one paragraph and pass on to the question of living conditions there:

"Owing to hunger, in the spring of 1942 prisoners of war used to leave the camp and on all fours like animals, gather and eat grass. In order to deprive men even of this food the Germans fenced off the camp building with two rows of barbed wire, with 2 metres distance between the rows and with wire entanglements placed at intervals."

I omit one paragraph and pass on to the conclusions:

"Near the camp 25 graves were discovered - 3 of them mass graves. The first grave measured 20 by 15 metres; in it were found remains of about one thousand corpses. The second grave measures 27 by 14 metres and there were discovered remains of about 900 corpses; in the third grave - 20 metres in length and 1 metre wide - were discovered remains of up to 500 corpses, and in the rest of the graves - from 25 to 30 in each - altogether remains of up to 3 thousand corpses".

In the region of the small farm of Vertyztchy in the Corodishtchy region of the Stalingrad area, the Hitlerites established a prisoner of war camp here, with the sadism characteristic of them, in the same way as in other camps, they exterminated the combatants of the Red Army.

I present to you as proof our No. U.S.S.R.-63 which contains an official report of the 21st June 1943. It is drawn up and authenticated in an appropriate manner and contains the following information. It is on page 110 of the document book:

"Owing to the bestial regime, during the 3½ months of the existence of the camp at the farm of Vertyztchy, there perished from starvation, tortures, illness and shootings at least 1,500 Soviet prisoners of war.

"The Germans forced the prisoners to work from 14 to 16 hours per day, and fed them once a day, the daily ration consisting of 3 to 4 spoonfulls of stewed rye or a ladleful of unsalted rye soup made with water and a piece of the flesh of a dead horse.

"A few days before the arrival of the Red Army the Germans ceased to feed the prisoners altogether and condemned them to death by starvation. Nearly all the prisoners suffered from dysentery. Many had open

H0060 - 0060

wounds, but no medical aid was given to prisoners".

I omit one paragraph and pass on to the next one which deals with the debasing treatment of prisoners of war.

"Germans mocked the patriotic feelings of Soviet prisoners of war, forcing them to work on building German military works - digging trenches, erecting fortifications, camouflage for military mechanised equipment. The Hitlerites systematically humiliated Soviet prisoners of war, forcing them to kneel down in front of Germans."

It is noted in the official report that the Commission examined material evidence - tools which were used to torture Soviet prisoners of war (a leather lash, a dagger, found amongst the dismembered bodies, with the well-known Hitlerite slogan: "Blut und Ehre").

The surroundings in which the dagger was found, give a full idea of what was to be understood by the German honour (Ehre) and for what blood (Blut) it was intended.

Crimes characteristic of the Hitlerite usurpers are spoken of in the Extraordinary State Commission documents concerning the town of Kertch. I submit to you the documents of the Extraordinary State Commission under No. U.S.S.R. - 63 (6) and I shall make Public several extracts. In your copy they are all marked so that the Tribunal may be able to follow the quoted text.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we might break off now.

(A recess was taken).

On page 115 of the book of documents you will find the testimony of Citizeness P. Y. Bulytchyova, which I will cite. She is from the town of Kertch.

"I was more than once a witness of them driving along our Red Army Prisoners of war - officers and men, and those who, owing to wounds and general weakness, fell out of the ranks and were shot right in the street by Germans. I several times saw this horrible sight. Once in freezing weather they drove a group of weary, ragged, barefooted men by. Those who tried to pick up pieces of bread thrown by passers-by in the street were beaten unmercifully by the Germans with rubber truncheons and rifle butts. Those who fell under these blows were shot".

H0060 - 0061

I am leaving out some sentences which, in my opinion, need not be read.

"During the period of the second occupation, when the Germans again broke into Kertch, they began to avenge themselves with even greater fury on persons guilty of nothing at all."

The witness testifies that the Fascist butchers avenged themselves primarily on military personnel, killing wounded soldiers with blows of a rifle butt. On the same page, 115, you will find this quotation:

"The prisoners of war were driven into large buildings which were then set alight. In this way the Voikov school was burnt down, and the engineering and technical workers' club, in which there were 400 soldiers and officers of the Red Army. Not a single one of them managed to escape from the burning building. Those who tried to save themselves were shot with automatic rifles. Wounded soldiers were bestially tortured in the fishing hamlet of Mayak".

Another female witness, who lived in this hamlet, A.P. Buryatchenko, testified:

"On the 28th May 1942 the Germans shot all the peaceful inhabitants who had remained behind in the hamlet and who did not succeed in hiding. The Fascist monsters mocked the wounded Soviet prisoners of war, beat them unmercifully with rifle butts and then shot them. In my dwelling, the Germans discovered a girl in military uniform, who having offered resistance to the Fascists, cried: "Shoot, reptiles, I die for the Soviet people, for Stalin, but you, scoundrels, you will meet a dog's death". The girl patriot was shot on the spot.

In the district of Kertch, there is the Adjimushkaisk stone quarry. There Red army soldiers were exterminated and poisoned by gas. N. N. Dashkova, a woman inhabitant of the village of Adjumushkaisk testified:

"I personally saw the Germans - having caught about 900 Red army soldiers in the stone quarry - subject them to ill-treatment and afterwards shoot them. The Fascists employed gas."

I am omitting a few sentences. On the same page, 115, you will find the following citation:

"In the Engels club at the time of the occupation there was situated a Soviet prisoners of war camp, in which there were over a thousand people.

H0060 - 0062

The Germans ill-treated them, fed them once a day, drove them to do exhausting work, and those who fell from exhaustion were shot on the spot."

It seems to me necessary to quote several other pieces of evidence: N. J. Shumiloff, a woman resident of the small hamlet of Gorki, declared:

"I personally saw a group of prisoners of war being led past my court-yard. Three of them were unable to move. They were shot on the spot by the German escort."

Citizeness P.I. Gerassimenko, inhabitant of the hamlet of Samostroy testified: "Many Red army soldiers and officers were driven to our hamlet. The land which they occupied was enclosed in barbed wire. Naked and bare-footed people perished from cold and hunger. They were kept in the most awful, inhuman conditions. Next to the living were lying numerous corpses which were not removed for several days. These conditions rendered life in the camp still more unbearable. The prisoners were beaten with rifle butts, they were bashed and fed with refuse. The inhabitants who endeavoured to give food and bread to the prisoners were beaten, and the prisoners of war who attempted to take such gifts were shot".

In the 24th Kertch school, the Germans set up a prisoners of war camp. Regarding the regime in this camp, a school teacher, A. N. Naumova, testified:

"At the camp there were many wounded. These unfortunate people were losing blood but remained without help. I collected medicines and bandages for the wounded and a medical orderly from amongst the prisoners of war bound up their wounds. The prisoners suffered from dysentery as, instead of bread, they were given refuse to eat. People dropped from exhaustion and disease, and died in awful agonies. On the 20th June 1942 three prisoners of war were beaten with the lash for attempting to escape from the camp. Prisoners were shot. In June one of the escaped prisoners was caught and executed".

A teacher of the Stalin school Koshevnikova personally saw how in the district of the Kitchen factory and Voikov works a Group of Red Army men and officers were shot.

In 1943 the German criminals were driving Red Army prisoners of war from the Caucasus. The whole road from the river crossing to the town, a distance of 18 to 20 Kilometres, was littered with Red army corpses. There were many,

H0060 - 0063

wounded and sick persons amongst the prisoners of war. Whoever was unable to walk, either owing to exhaustion or to sickness, was shot on the way.

Amongst other facts one more deserves special attention.

"In 1942 the Fascists threw 100 Red Army prisoners of war alive into the village well of Adjimushkay; the corpses were afterwards extracted by the inhabitants and buried in a communal grave.

This information is contained in the same report, extract of which I have just quoted to you.

On the 29 January 1946, the witness Paul Roser was interrogated at a session of the Court. He testified that in the course of four months, out of ten thousand Russians whom he saw as prisoners of war in the German camp at the city of Rava Russkaya, only two thousand remained alive.

We possess evidence from another eye witness of numerous atrocities and limitless torture inflicted on the prisoners-of-war at Rava Russkaya.

Witness V.S. Kotchan, who was interrogated under the procedure prescribed by our laws, testified before the Guard Captain of Justice Ryzhov, on 27 September 1944 (the minutes of this interrogation is hereby submitted to you under Number USSR-66):

"I worked under the Germans at the Red Army prisoner-of-war camp from December 1941 to April 1942, as ground digger." This is on page 124 of your Document book.

I omit a few lines irrelevant to the matter.

"This camp was set up by the Germans in the barracks near the railway. The whole camp area was surrounded by barbed wire. According to statements by the prisoners-of-war themselves, the Germans drove into this camp from twelve to fifteen thousand men. While we were working, we observed how the Germans ill-treated the Red Army prisoners-of-war. They fed them once a day on unpeeled frozen potatoes, baken in their skins and with dirt on them. They kept the prisoners-of-war in the cold barracks all winter.

I know for a fact that when the Germans drove the prisoners of war into this camp, any clothes, overcoats, boots, as well as shoes, which were at all wearable were taken away from the prisoners, leaving them in rags and barefooted. The prisoners of war were taken to work daily under escort from 4 to 5

H0060 - 0064

in the morning and were kept working until 10 o'clock at night. Worn out, cold and hungry people were driven into huts in which the windows and doors were specially kept open by day so that the frost should get into these huts, and in this way the people were frozen too. In the morning, hundreds of corpses were taken away in a tractor by the prisoners of war themselves, guarded by German soldiers, into the Volkovitch forest, where they were buried in previously prepared pits. While prisoners were being marched off to work, the Germans placed a detachment of soldiers armed with rifles and stakes in the passage gates leading out of the camp, and killed with stake blows in the head, stabbed with bayonets and shot those who, owing to inanition and hunger, could not move properly."

This same witness also describes other instances of German brutality. Thus, for instance:

"The German administration of the camp brought out completely naked prisoners of war, bound them with ropes to a wall surrounded by barbed wire and kept them there in the wintry frosts of December until they froze to death. The groans and cries of the persons maimed by rifle butts continually filled the air in the camp grounds. Some they killed with rifle butts on the spot.

When they were brought into the camp grounds, starving and exhausted prisoners of war rushed to a heap of rotten, frost bitten potatoes. This was followed by shooting by the German escort."

I present to the Tribunal other evidence, under the same number, No. 66, the deposition of a French prisoner of war. Emile Leger, a soldier of the 43rd Colonial Infantry Regiment, Service No. 29. This is on page 129 of the book of documents.

In his deposition, the camp at Rava Russka is called "the famous camp of slow death", "Stalag 325."

It appears to me that this phrase serves, as it were, as a supplement to the testimony of the witnesses Roser and Kochan. The Soviet Prosecution

H0060 - 0065

has at its disposal a considerable quantity of material unmasking the Hitlerite usurpers in numerous other crimes as well against prisoners of war ir the territory of the Lvov district.

It seems to me sufficient to read extracts from one testimony by D.Sh. Manussyevitch and state that this evidence is confirmed by that of two other witnesses: F.G. Ash and G.Y.Khamaydess. All three documents are submitted by me again as Nu. 6 b.

Witnesses Manussyevitch, Ash and Hamaydess worked for some time in the detachment which cremated the bodies of men shot by the Germans in the Lvov region, and in particular in the Lisssenitzky camps. Witness Manussyevitch states (I quote, beginning with line 20 at the bottom of page 11 of our No. 6 b) and on page 129 of your book of documents.

"On completing the cremation of bodies we were brought in the night in cars ("the death brigade") to Lissenitzky forest, opposite the Lvov yeast factory. Here in the forest were about 45 pits with the bodies of people shot previously during the period of 1941-42. In the pits there were between 500 and 3,500 bodies in each. There were corpses of soldiers of the Italian, French, Belgian and Russian Armies, i.e. of prisoners of war, but also those fo peaceful inhabitants. All prisoners of war were buried clothed. Because of that, while unearthing them from the pits, I could recognize them by their uniforms, distinguishing signs, buttons, medals and orders and from spoons and kettles. In the same way as in the Yanovsky camp, grass was sown on the spot where the pits were, trees were planted and stumps of cut down trees were placed, in order to erase any trace of these crimes unknown in human history."

In addition to the testimony of the victims themselves and of many Soviet Citizens, we have at our disposal the testimony of the members of the German armed forces. I submit to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-62 a document which was signed by more than sixty persons who were members of different units and branches of the German Army. We find their signatures to the document which they addressed to the International Red Cross in January 1942. In their protest they mentioned facts of criminal attitude towards Soviet prisoners of war, facts of which they had personal knowledge. The persons who signed this protest were prisoners of war at the Soviet Camp No. 78. Their protest is the

H0060 - 0066

result of the comparison made by the authors of this document between that which they saw with their own eyes as to the treatment of Soviet prisoners of war and that which they witnessed at Camp No. 78.

I will quote a few excerpts from this document. The text begins with the following words: Page 125 of the document book.

"We, the German prisoners of war of Camp No. 78, have read the note by Mr. Molotov, Peoples' Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Government, concerning the treatment of prisoners of war in Germany: We would consider the cruelties described in that note impossinle had we not been witnesses of such atrocities. In order that truth should prevail, we feel compelled to confirm that prisoners of war, citizens of the Soviet Union, were ofter subjected to terrible ill-treatment on the part of the members of the German Army, and were even shot."

Further in the text are given complete examples of the crimes of which the authors had knowledge:

"Hans Drews, of Regenwalde, a soldier of Company 4 of the 4th Tank Regiment, had this to say:

"I am acquainted with the order issued by Lieut-General Model to the 3rd Tank Division which stated that prisoners should not be taken. A similar order was issued by Maj.Gen. Nehring, the commanding officer of the 18th Tank Division. Two days prior to the beginning of the campaign against Russia we were told at the briefing session of 20 June that in the forthcoming war wounded Red Army men should not have their wounds dressed, because the German Army had not time to be bothered with the wounded."

The fact of respective briefing is also testified by the soldier of the Headquarters Company of the 18th Rank Division, Harry Marek from Alsace near Breslau:

"On 21 June, a day before the beginning of the war against Russia, we had been given by our officers the following order: the officers of the Red Army must be shot on the spot. There is no need to stand upon ceremony with them. It is not necessary either to bother too much with Russian wounded: they must simply be finished off on the spot."

H0060 - 0067

The soldier of the 399th Infantry Regiment of the 170th Division, Wilhelm Metzick, from Altona, Hamburg, cites the following case:

"When on 23 June we entered Russia we came to a small place near Beltsa. There with my own eyes I saw how two German soldiers shot with sub-machine guns five Russian prisoners in the back."

To the existence of the directive to exterminate political functionaries of the Red Army, the soldier of Company 2 of the 3rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Wolfgang Scharte, of Gerhardtshagen, near Braunschweig, testified:

"One day before the beginning of our campaign against the Soviet Union the officers told us the following: if you happen to meet Russian Commissars, who can be recognized by the Soviet star on their sleeve, and Russian women in uniform, they must be immediately shot. Anyone who does not do so and fails to carry out this order will be held responsible and punished.

On 29 June 1941 I myself saw how commanders of the German Army shot wounded Red Army men who were lying on a field of grain near the town of Dubno. After this they were also bayoneted so that there should be no doubt that they were dead. German officers stood nearby and laughed."

Joseph Berdsen of Obernausen, a soldier of the 6th Tank Division, stated:

"Even before entering Russia we had been told at one of the briefing sessions: Commissars must be shot."

The German officer, a lieutenant of the 112th Engineer Battalion of the 112th Infantry Division, Jacob Korzillias, of Horforst, near Trier, certified as follows:

"At a village near Bolva, in accordance with the order by Lieut. Kierick, the Headquarters Adjutant of the 112th Engineer Battalion, fifteen wounded Red Army men were thrown out of the hut in which they were lying. They were stripped and bayoneted. This was done with the knowledge of the Division Commander, Lieut-Gen. Miet."

Alois Getz, from Hagenbach on Rhine, a soldier of Company 8 of the 427th Infantry Regiment stated:

"On 27 June in the forest near Augustovo, on the order of the battalion Commander, Captain Witt, two Red Army Commissars were shot."

On page 3 of our exhibit USSR-62, we find the following statement by

H0060 - 0068

Paul Sender of Koenigsberg, a soldier of the 4th Platoon of Cannon Company 13 of the 2nd Infantry Regiment: Page 135 of the Document Book.

"On 14 July on the road between Porchov and Staraya Russia in the gutter, corporal Schneider of Company 1 of the 2nd Infantry Regiment shot twelve captured Red Army men. When I asked him about it, Schneider said: "Why should I bother with them. They are not even worth a bullet." I know also of another case.

During the battles around Porchov one Red Army man was taken prisoner. Soon after that he was shot by the acting corporal of Company 1. As soon as the Red Army men fell, the corporal took out of the man's bread bag all the food which was there."

Before finishing the reading of excerpts from the protest of the German prisoners of war, I would like to quote two more depositions of Fritz Rummler and Richard Gilling respectively. Their depositions we find on the lower part of page 4. Fritz Rummler of Streilen in Silesia, a corporal of Company 9 of the 3rd Battalion of the 518th Regiment of the 295th Division, reported the following facts:

"In August, in the town of Zlatopol, I saw how two officers belonging to SS units and two soldiers shot two captured Red Army soldiers after having taken off the army overcoats from these men. These officers and soldiers belonged to the armoured troops of General von Kleist. In September the crew of a German tank on the road to Krasnograd crushed with their vehicle two Red Army men who had been taken prisoner. This was done simply for lust of blood and murder. The tank commander was non-commissioned officer Schneider who belonged to von Kleist's armoured troops. I saw how in our battalion four captured Red Army men were questioned. This took place at Voroshilovsk. The Red Army men refused to answer questions of a military nature which the battalion commander, Major Warnecke asked them. He flew into a rage and personally beat up the prisoners until they lost consciousness.

Acting corporal of the 9th Transportation Platoon of the 34 th Division, Richard Gilling, stated:

"Many a time I was witness of the inhuman and cruel treatment of Russian prisoners of war. Before my own eyes, acting on the orders of their officers,

H0060 - 0069

German soldiers took off the boots from the captured Red Army men and drove them on bare-footed. Many such facts I witnessed at Tarutino. I was an eye-witness of the following fact. One captured Red Army man refused to give up his boots voluntarily. Soldiers of the escort beat him up to such an extent that he could not move. I saw how prisoners had taken away from them not only their boots but also all their clothing including underwear."

Here I omit a few sentences, and turn to the end of Gilling's statement:

"During the retreat of our column I saw not far from the town of Medyn how German soldiers beat captured Red Army men. One captured man was very tired and unsteady on his legs. One soldier of the escort jumpted at him and began to kick him with his boots and hit him with the butt of his rifle. The same was done by other soldiers. Near the town this prisoner dropped dead."

The statement further reads:

"It is no secret that in the German Army at the front, at Division Headquarters, there are specialists whose particular work is to torture Red Army men and Soviet officers in order to force them in this manner to disclose military information and orders."

The photostate of this statement I submit to the Tribunal. The Tribunal will satisfy itself that there are sixty signatures personally executed by the members of the German armed forces followed by the names of the regiments and smaller units to which they belonged.

I submit to the Tribunal four photographs of German origin. Each of thes photographs was taken by a German; the time and place being indicated. One of these photographs is a picture showing the distribution of food; the second shows search for food; the third and fourth are pictures of the Uman prisoner-of-war camp.

It is obvious from the first picture that the food which is being --

THE PRESIDENT: Where are the pictures?

COLONEL POKROVSKY: If I am not mistaken, you have been given the photostats.

THE PRESIDENT: This isn't a copy of the photographs; these are the signatures of the sixty German prisoners.

COLONEL POKROVSKY: They will be submitted very shortly, those four photographs.

H0060 - 0070

THE PRESIDENT: Go on.

It is obvious from the first picture that the food which is being distributed is insufficient. Mew are almost fighting to get some. The second photograph shows hungry Soviet prisoners of war wandering around an empty barn, and eating oil-cakes which they have discovered stored away in the barn as foo for cattle. With respect to the third and fourth photographs, I can submit to the Tribunal important testimony by the witness Bingel. Excerpts from his testimony have a direct hearing on the question of the treatment of Soviet prisoners of war.

Bingel was interrogated by me, and a record of his interrogation I submit to the Tribunal as Exhibit USSR-111. On December 27, 1945, Bingel, who was formerly company commander in the German Army, testified -- I quote the excerpt from the eighth page of the record of his interrogation.

"I have already made one statement concerning the interior regime in the prisoners-of-war camp at Uman. This camp was guarded by one company of the 783rd Battalion, and therefore I had knowledge of everything which took place there. It was the task of our battalion to guard the prisoners of war and to supervise highways and railroads.

"This camp was normally designed for six to seven thousand men; however, at that time seventy-four thousand men were kept there.

"Q. Were those barracks?

"A. No. It was formerly a brickyard, and on the site of it was nothing but low sheds for drying bricks.

"Q. Were the prisoners of war quartered there?

"A. It can be hardly said that they were quartered there, because each shed at the most could contain not more than 2-- to 300 men; the rest had to sleep in the open

H0060 - 0071

"Q What was the regime at that camp?

"A The regime at the camp was somewhat peculiar. The conditions at the camp created the impression that the commanding officer, Captain Bekker, was unable to handle such a large mass of people and to feed it. In the camp there were two kitchens; though they couldn't really be called kitchens. On concrete and on stones, iron barrels were placed, and in them the food for the prisoners of war was prepared. If these kitchens were to operate for twenty-four hours a day they could prepare food for approximately 2000 men. The usual diet for the prisoners of war, the daily ration, consisted of one loaf of bread for every six men. The bread, however, could hardly be called bread. During the distribution of cooked meals disorders often took place as the prisoners of war--and there were more than 70,000 of them in the camp--struggled to get at the food. In such cases the guards used clubs which were the usual thing at the camp. I got the general impression that at these camps the club was the foundation of all things."

Two photographs are attached to the report I am submitting to the Tribunal; the other two will be given you very shortly.

"Q Do you know anything about the death rate at the camp?

"A Sixty to seventy men died at the camp daily.

"Q What were the causes?

"A Before epidemics broke out it was mostly because the men were being killed.

"Q Killed during the distribution of food?

"A Either during the distribution of food or during working time, and generally men were being killed throughout the whole day."

Bingel was interrogated for the second time, and he had been shown the photographs of the Uman camp. Bingel was asked the following question.

"The camp shown here, is it the one you spoke about, or some other camp?"

H0060 - 0072

After this he was shown photographs from negative 13/18 of August 14, 1941, and from negative 13/22, of the same date. Bingel replied:

"Yes, it is the same camp of which I spoke.

"This actually is not the camp, but a claypit which belongs to the camp, where the prisoners of war coming from the front were placed. Later on they were distributed among the different sections of the camp."

"Q. What can you say about the second photograph?

"A. The second photograph shows the same camp only taken from another side, from the right side. These buildings which are shown here were actually the only brick buildings at that camp. This brick building, though entirely empty and undamaged, and which had excellent large quarters, was not used for housing the prisoners of war."

It is difficult to say whether that which the Hitlerites did to the Soviet prisoners of war at the so-called "Grosslazarett" of the town of Slavuta in the Kamenez-Podolsk region should not be considered as the limit of human baseness. Be that as it may, the extermination of Soviet prisoners of war by the Hitlerites at the "Grosslazarett" is one of the darkest pages in the history of Fascist crimes.

I submit to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-5, the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, and will read into the record several excerpts from the report itself as well as the appendices thereto.

On the expulsion of the Fascist hordes from the town of Slavuta, units of the Red Army discovered on the site of the restricted military area what the Germans called the "Grosslazarett" for the Soviet prisoners of war. In the "Lazarett" there were found more than 500 emaciated and critically ill men. The interrogation of these men and the special investigation carried out by medico-judicial experts, and by the expert members of the Central Institute of Food

H0060 - 0073

of the Peoples Commissariat of Health of the USSR, enabled a detailed reconstruction to be made of the extermination of a large number of Soviet prisoners of war which took place at that appalling institution. On page 153 of the book of documents you will find the place from which I am going to cite.

"In the fall of 1941 German Fascist invaders occupied the town of Slavuta and organized a 'Lazarett' there for the wounded and sick officers and men of the Red Army, the designation of which was 'Grosslazarett, Slavuta Zailage 301.'"

The "Lazarett" was located approximately 1½ to 2 kilometers to the south east of Slavuta, and occupied ten three-story buildings--blocks. All these buildings the Hitlerites surrounded by a dense net of wire entanglements. Along these entanglements, at a distance of every 10 meters, were built towers in which machine guns, search lights, and guards were placed.

The administration, the German doctors, and the guards of the "Grosslazarett," as represented by the commanding officer, Captain Plank, and later Major Pavlisk, who replaced him, the Deputy Commander Kronsdorfer, Captain Boie, Stabsarzt Dr. Borbe, his deputy Dr. Sturm, Master Sergeant Ilsemann and Technical Sergeant Bekker, carried out a mass extermination of prisoners of war by means of creating a special regime of hunger, congestion and insanitary conditions, the use of tortures and outright killings, by with-holding medical treatment from sick and wounded, and by forcing utterly emaciated men to perform the hardest work.

The Extraordinary State Commission calls the German "Grosslazarett" the hospital of death. I quote a small part of the section thus entitled. This is the third page of the Russian original.

"At the 'Grosslazarett' the German authorities concentrated 15 to 18 thousand critically and slightly wounded Soviet prisoners of war, as well as those suffering from different contagious and non-contagious diseases.

H0060 - 0074

To replace those who had died new groups of wounded and sick prisoners of war were continuously moved in. On their way the prisoners of war were subjected to tortures, starved and killed. From each train which arrived at the "Lazarett" the Hitlerites threw out hundreds of corpses."

According to the data of the investigating Commission, from each train unloaded at a branch line, 800-900 corpses used to be thrown out. The report of the Commission states further as follows.

"In the course of their march thousands of Soviet prisoners of war perished from hunger, thirst, lack of care, savage arbitrary practices of the German guard.

As a rule, the Hitlerites would meet a group of prisoners of war at the gate of the "Lazarett" with beatings with butts and rubber clubs, and then the leather footgear, warm clothing and personal belongings of the newcomers were taken away.

In the following section, on the same page, the State Commission reports that infectious diseases were deliberately spread by the German medical officers among the prisoners of war in the "Lazarett."

"The German medical officers artificially created in the 'Grosslazarett' an unbelieveable congestion. The prisoners of war were forced to stand up close to each other, broke down with fatigue and exhaustion, fell and died. The Fascists used different methods of 'congestion' in the 'Lazarett.'"

A former prisoner of war, I. Y. Chuazhev, reported that the Germans, "by shooting sub-machine guns created a congestion in the place and the men perforce pressed closer to each other; then the Hitlerites pushed in some more sick and wounded and the door was closed."

H0060 - 0075

From the spread of infectious diseases in this hospital, Soviet prisoners of war suffered in one chamber and one block.

In this ward intended under normal circumstances and conditions to hold not more than 400 patients, the number of typhus and tuberculosis cases amounted to 1800.

"The rooms were never cleaned. The sick remained, for months on end, in the same linen they had worn when captured. Many were half-dressed; others were entirely nude. The buildings were not heated and the stoves fell apart. There was no water for washing. As a result of these unsanitary conditions, the death rates were very high."

Annihilation was carried out by starvation, very poor rations, and the food consisted of 250 grams of flour which was supposed to be given to the prisoners, and such flour was found in the "Lazarett" in the quantity of 15 tons. On the bags made of paper there was the label "Scholmehe". Samples of this flour were sent for investigation to the Central Food Institute of the Commission for USSR National Welfare.

I submit the documents dealing with the annihilation of the Soviet Prisoner of War by the Hitlerites in the "Gross-Lazarett", as No. USSR 5a, on pages 9, 10 and 11 of this document.

These conclusions are made on the basis of the analysis which was carried out by this institution and, on the other hand, by the analysis which was carried out in the institute, there was "Ersatz-Flour" with the addition of some authentic flour. It was proved that it was impossible to bake a loaf with "Ersatz-Flour" alone. It was found that the bread was made with the addition of some quantity of natural flour, and the user of that bread was driven into starvation. The analysis has shown that the flour is nothing else but particles of flour as low as two millimeters and sometimes three; and under the microscope they showed, together with food and vegetable fiber, they found grains of starch and the institute came to the conclusion that the use of such bread, on account of the irritation of the intestines, led to diseases of the alimentary tract.

I wish to report the result of the examination of 112 corpses. In the first case, the cause of death was found with respect to 96 victims, was exhaustion. In the second case, on June 22, 1941, the statement that exhaustion was the cause of death, has been determined on the basis of the examination of the 500 corpses.

H0060 - 0076

Further, in this conclusion, in paragraph 5, the experts note that the diet in the Slavutsk "Gross-Lazarett" can be characterized by entirely inadequate food. The bread was 64 percent with the addition of sawdust and from foul potatoes and other excrement.

I am citing from page 4 of Document USSR 5:

"In the "Gross-Lazarett" we periodically observed outbreaks of a disease of an unknown nature, called 'para-cholera' by the German doctors. The appearance of 'para-cholera' was the result of barbarous experiments by the German doctors. Quite suddenly these outbreaks would appear and as suddenly they would vanish. The mortality in 'para-cholera' was from 60 to 80 percent. Autopsies were performed on some of the victims of the disease, to which autopsies no captured Russian Medical Officers were admitted."

In conclusion of this medical examination, it is stated in USSR-5a, sub-division S.

No conditions can be objectively considered and explained, only conditions of searched war prisoners kept in the camp; more so, with a lot of material, the food also was terrible.

In the "Gross-Lazarett" there was a considerable number of medical help. At the same time, as stated in the communication of the Government Commission, sick and wounded officers and soldiers of the Red Army did not receive even the most elementary medical attention. And how can there be any talk of medical attention when the entire task of the "Gross-Lazarett" was diametrically opposed to such assistance. The administration of the "Gross-Lazarett" not only strove to destroy the Prisoners of War physically; they endeavored to fill the last days of the sick and wounded with suffering and anguish.

I quote part of this section. It is printed on page 4 of Document USSR 5.

"In the "Gross-Lazarett", the Soviet Prisoners were subjected to torture and torment; they were beaten when food was distributed, they were beaten agai when sent out to work. The legal-medical examination of the exhumed bodies brought to light, amongst a number of other bodies of Prisoners of War, the body of a prisoner who, in his death agony had been wounded with a knife in the inguinal region with the knife still sticking in the wounded. He was thrown in a grave still alive and covered with earth.

H0060 - 0077

"One variety of mass torture in the hospital consisted in locking the sick and wounded in an unheated cell. The cell had a concrete floor. The Prisoners locked in the cell were deprived of food for several days and many died there. For the purpose of still further exhausting the Prisoners, the Hitlerites forced the sick and debilitated captives to run round the "hospital" building; those who could not run were then beaten to death. It was by no means uncommon for the German guards to murder the prisoners just for the fun of the thing.

"A former prisoner of War, Buchtichyuk, tells us that the Germans threw dead horses on the barbed wire protecting the interior of the camp and when the Prisoners of War, maddened with hunger ran up to the barbed wire, the guard opened fire on them with machine guns. The witness, Kirsanov, saw one Prisoner of War bayonetted to death for picking up a potato tuber. A former Prisoner of War, Shatalov, was an eyewitness when the escort shot a Prisoner of War who had tried to obtain a second helping of 'Balanda'.

"In February, 1942, Shatalov saw a sentry wounding one of the prisoners who was searching the garbage heap for remnants left over from the German kitchen of the service personnel; the wounded man was immediately brought to the pit, undressed and shot."

THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn now.

(The Tribunal adjourned until 14 February, 1946, at 1000 hours.)